Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ACC

10000 | 120 | 1115

(redacted)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000 | 120 | 1115

(~~[redacted] [illegible]~~)

SG 129/32 Progress - Strength - returns - General

Opened Oct. 8, 1944 - Closed Feb. 4, 1945

Oct. 1944 - Feb. 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

REF:I0000/I20 ACC - HEADQUARTERS MISSION MI-ITARY ITA-IAN ARMY

Serial Original BOX 339 Dates

I245 8T/25 Correspondence on reports Feb 44/Nov 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

BOX 339

III6	29/32/1	Progress strength returns Friuli	Dec 44/Jan 45
III7	29/32/2	Weekly progress strength Cremona	Dec 44/Jan 45
III8	29/32/3	Weekly progress & Strength returns Legnano	Dec 44/Mar 45
III9	29/32/4	Progress and strength returns "Folgore"	Dec 44/Feb 45
II20	29/3215	Weekly progress strength Mantova	Dec 44/Mar 44
II21	29/34	Discipline	Oct 44/Jan 45
II22	29/35	Administration instructions	Oct 44/Apr 45
II23	29/36	MMIA - Internal correspondence	Sep 44/Mar 45
II24	29/37	Moves of Group "Friuli"	Nov 44/Jan 45
II25	29/37/1	Moves of Group "Cremona"	Nov 44/Jan 45
II26	29/37/2	Moves of Group Legnano	Nov 44/Feb 45
II27	29/37/3	Moves of Group Folgore	Jan 45/Feb 45
II28	29/37/4	ditto - Mantova	Dec 44/Jan 45
II29	29/37/5	ditto - Cesorno	Nov 44/Jan 45
II30	29/38	Specialists and drivers for Combat Groups	Nov 44/Mar 45
II3I	29/39	Orders of Battle	Nov 44/Mar 45
II32	29/40	Unit and distinguishing signs	Oct 44/Mar 45
II33	29/44	Training increment	Dec 44/Jan 45
II34	29/45	ICF-RTC War Establishments	Jan 45/Mar 45
II35	29/45/A	General	Jan 45/
II36	29/46	Volunteers local enlistment by Groups	Mar 45/
II37	29/48	RTC-ICF Special Camp	Mar 45/
II38	29/49	W.E of Infrantry battalion	Oct 44/Feb 45
II39	29/50	Recce companies	Feb 45/Mar 45
II40	29/5I	Supply of rifts for Bri.Itd services	Feb 45/Mar 45
II4I	30	Comando Supremo	Mar 44/Oct 44
II42	3I	Italian Troops in Yugoslavia & Greece	Apr 44/Nov 44
II43	3I/2	Disposal of personnel from Greece and the Balkans	Nov 44/Dec 44
II44	3I/3	Nominal rolls strandrews camp	Dec44/
II45	3I/3	ditto	Nov 44/Dec 44
II46	G/Trg/2	Progress Reports	Mar 45/Aug 45
II48	2a	Correspondence and Progress reports	Sep 45/Jan 46
II49	Trg/DC/3	S.O	May 45/Jan 46
II50	Trg/4	Conferences	Nov 44/Dec 44
			Dec 44/Nov 45

REF: I0000/I20

ACC-HEADQUARTERS

BOX 339

MI-ITARY MISSION
ITA-IAN ARMY

Serial	Original		Dates
II5I	G/Trg/5	War establishments Italian	Apr 45/Jun 45
II52	Trg/7.I	Staff lists Italian	Dec 45/
II53	Trg/8	Organization	Apr 45/Dec 45
II54	Trg/9	Policy and reinforcements	Jun 45/Dec 45
II55	Trg/I0	Training & Courses R.T.C.	May 45/Oct 45
II56	Trg/I0/I	ditto - Infranty	Jul 45/Jan 46
II57	Trg/I0/2	ditto - Signals	Sep 45/Nov 45
II58	Trg/I0/3	ditto - Engineers	May 45/Jun 45
II59	Trg/I0.4	Ditto - E.M.E.	Apr 45/Dec 45
II60	Trg/I0/5	ditto - General correspondence & Policy	Apr 45/Nov 45
II6I	Trg/I0/5	Courses allocations	Apr 45/Aug 45
II62	Trg/I0/7	Training and ciurses services	Dec 45/Jan 46
II63	Trg/I0/8	Courses other establishments	Dec 44/Jan 46
II64	Trg/I0.9	Courses results	Apr 45/Nov 45
II65	Trg/I3	Training Italian Junior officers	Feb 45/Jan 46
II66	Trg/I3/I	Training Italian senior officers	Apr 45/May 45
II67	Trg/I3/2	Training British Inc.and staff	Mar 45/Sep 45
II68	Trg/I3/2a	Training man.managements	Apr 45/Jan 46
II69	Trg/I3/3	Training Publications	Mar 45/Jan 46
II70	Trg/I3/4	Training films	Apr 45/Jan 46
II7I	Trg/I3/5	Training establishments	Feb 45/Jan 46
II72	Trg/I3/6	Training programmes	Mar 45/Jun 45
II73	Trg/I3/7	Training reports	May 45/Jun 45
II74	Trg/I3/8	Training Ita-ian ORs	Mar 45/Aug 45
II75	Trg/I3/9	Training Army Air	Mar 45/Apr 45
II76	Trg/I4	Officers training cadet schools Lecce	Jul 45/Oct 45
II77	Trg/I8	Personnel selection	Nov 45/Dec 45
II78	Trg/20	M.A.P.S.	Apr 45/Jun 45
II79	Trg/2I	Ranges	Jan 45/Jan 46
II80	Trg/22	Interpreters	Apr 45/Jan 46
II8I	Trg/23	Instructors	Feb 45/Jan 46
II82	Trg/24	RTC & I2 B-U	Apr 45/Jan 46
II83	Trg/25	Infantry division	Nov 45/Jan 46
II84	Trg/26	Gariba-di Group	Apr 45/Aug 45
II85	Trg/27	Training P.P.D.	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

II63	Trg/I0/8	Courses other establishments	Dec 45/Jan 46
II64	Trg/I0.9	Courses results	Dec 44/Jan 46
II65	Trg/I3	Training Italian Junior officers	Apr 45/Nov 45
II66	Trg/I3/I	Training Italian senior officers	Feb 45/Jan 46
II67	Trg/I3/2	Training British Inc.and staff	Apr 45/May 45
II68	Trg/I3/2a	Training man.managements	Mar 45/Sep 45
II69	Trg/I3/3	Training Publications	Apr 45/Jan 46
II70	Trg/I3/4	Training films	Mar 45/Jan 46
II7I	Trg/I3/5	Training establishments	Apr 45/Jan 46
II72	Trg/I3/6	Training programmes	Feb 45/Jan 46
II73	Trg/I3/7	Training reports	Mar 45/Jun 45
II74	Trg/I3/8	Training Italian ORs	May 45/Jun 45
II75	Trg/I3/9	Training Army Air	Mar 45/Aug 45
II76	Trg/I4	Officers training cadet schools Lecce	Mar 45/Apr 45
II77	Trg/I8	Personnel selection	Jul 45/Oct 45
II78	Trg/20	M.A.P.S.	Nov 45/Dec 45
II79	Trg/2I	Ranges	Apr 45/Jun 45
II80	Trg/22	Interpreters	Jan 45/Jan 46
II8I	Trg/23	Instructors	Apr 45/Jan 46
II82	Trg/24	R2C & I2 B-U	Feb 45/Jan 46
II83	Trg/25	Infantry division	Apr 45/Jan 46
II84	Trg/26	Garibaldi Group	Nov 45/Jan 46
II85	Trg/27	Training B.R.Ds	Apr 45/Aug 45
II86	Trg/28	Guard battalions	Apr 45/Nov 45
II87	Trg/28	ditto	Jan 45/May 45
II88	Trg/30	Training equipment	May 45/Dec 45
II89	Trg/40	General Correspondence D.M.T.	Mar 45/Nov 45
II90	Trg/4I	General Correspondence Ministry of War	May 45/Oct 45
II9I	Trg/4I/A	M/T	Jan 45/Oct 45
II92	Trg/43	General Correspondence R.T.C.	Aug 45/Dec 45
II93	Trg/44	Interior administrations	Apr 45/Oct 45
II94	Trg/45	General	Apr 45/Jan 46
II95	Trg/95/A	Stationery	Apr 45/Sep 45
II96	Trg/46	Office Instructions	Apr 45/Dec 45
II97	Trg/47	Training visits	Aug 44/Jan 46
II98	Trg/4I	Returns (British Italian & Internal MMIA)	Nov 45/Dec 45
II99	ST/I	Rations	Jun 45/Sep 45
I200	ST/I/I	Supply to IA details of shipments	Sep 43/Mar 44
I20I	ST/I/2	Supplies for Italian armed Forces (Accounting instructions)	Dec 43/Mar 44
			Jan 44/Dec 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

REF: I0000/I20 — ACC - HEADQUARTERS — MI-ITARY MISSION ITA-IAN ARMY.

Serial	Original	BOX 339	Dates
I202	SF/2	Rations local resources	Sep 43/Oct 44
I203	2/2	-ocal resources items maintenance of Fwd areas	Aug 44/Oct 44
I204	3	IO Dai-y demands(Supplies)	Dec 43/Mar 44
I205	3	IO daily demands(Supplies)	Mar 44/Jun 44
I206	3/I	Supplies list from B.P.O.s	Dec 43/Mar 44
I207	4	Ration strengths up to 24 April (Subsequently on SF/46)	Nov 43/Mar 44
I208	5/VI	Ration-Sca-es	Sep 43/Jan 45
I209	6/2	Stocks in depots Bari Sector	Sep 44/Jan 45
I2I0	6/3	Stocks in depots Taranto sector	Sep 44/Jan 45
I2II	6/3	ditto	Jan 45/Apr 45
I2I2	6/4	Stocks in Depots Cabangaro sector	May 44/Jan 45
I2I3	6/5	Stocks in Sici-y	Jun 44/Jan 45
I2I4	6/6	Stocks in depots Sardinia	Oct 44/Jan 45
I2I5	6/7	Stocks in depots	Nov 43/Jun 44
I2I6	6/8	Stocks Nap-es sector	Jun 44/Jan 45
I2I7	6/9	Stocks Rome Sector	Sep 44/Jan 45
I2I8	6/I0	Special stock state PM/I5 October I944	Oct 44/
I2I9	8	Medical supplies	Jul 44/Oct 44
I220	9	Medica- conforts hospitals diet items demands	Mar 45/Mar 45
I22I	9/I	Medical conforts accounting for hospital and diet items	Dec 44/
I222	I0	Divison Commissariato sussistenza organisation	Jul 44/Feb 45
I223	I3	Forage	Mar 44/Apr 44
I224	I3	ditto	Oct 44/Jan 45
I225	I3	ditto	Mar 44/Feb 45
I226	I3/I	Forage demands and release	Mar 44/May 44
I227	I3/I	Forage release	Mar 44/Jul 44
I228	I3/I	ditto	Jun 44/Aug 44
I229	I3/3	Forage demands	Jun 44/Nov 44
I230	I3/3	ditto	Dec 44/Mar 45
I23I	I3/3	Forage demands and releases	Feb 45/May 45
I232	I3/4	Forage Calabria	Jun 44/

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

I211	6/3	ditto	Sep 44/Jan 45
I212	6/4	Stocks in Depots Catanzaro sector	Jan 45/Apr 45
I213	6/5	Stocks in Sici-y	May 44/Jan 45
I214	6/6	Stocks in depots Sardinia	Jun 44/Jan 45
I215	6/7	Stocks in depots	Oct 44/Jan 45
I216	6/8	Stocks Nap-es sector	Nov 43/Jun 44
I217	6/9	Stocks Rome Sector	Jun 44/Jan 45
I218	6/10	Special stock state PM/15 October 1944	Sep 44/Jan 45
I219	8	Medical supplies	Oct 44/
I220	9	Medica- conforts hospitals diet items demands	Jul 44/Oct 44
I221	9/1	Medical conforts accounting for hospital and diet items	Mar 44/Mar 45
I222	10	Divisen Commissariato sussisten-sa organisation	Dec 44/
I223	13	Forage	Jul 44/Feb 45
I224	13	ditto	Mar 44/Apr 44
I225	13	ditto	Oct 44/Jan 45
I226	13/1	Forage demands and release	Mar 44/Feb 45
I227	13/1	Forage release	Mar 44/May 44
I228	13/1	ditto	Mar 44/Jul 44
I229	13/3	Forage demands	Jun 44/Aug 44
I230	13/3	ditto	Jun 44/Nov 44
I231	13/3	Forage demands and releases	Dec 44/Mar 45
I232	13/4	Forage Calabria	Feb 45/May 45
I233	13/5	Forage Campania	Jun 44/
I234	13/6	Hay -azio	Jun 44/Oct 44
I235	13/7	Straw Grosseto Province (Tuscany rgt)	Sep 44/Jan 45
I236	14	Fue- supplies	Oct 44/Feb 45
I237	17	Disinfectants and miscellaneous items	Oct 43/Aug 44
I238	17/1	Disinfectants demands and re-eases	Feb 44/Aug 44
I239	18	Ita-ian mule and pack transporta-tion units	Aug 44/Mar 45
I240	20	Organization Italian field backeries	Nov 43/May 45
I241	23	Pay and allowances italian Army	Sep 44/Mar 45
I242	24	Shipping bids shrot.term maintenance	Jan 44/Aug 44
I243	24	ditto	Feb 44/Dec 44
I244	24	ditto	Jul 44/Nov 44
			Jul 44/Dec 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

29/32

ENCLOSURE

HEADQUARTERS OF MILITARY TRAINING
ARMY GROUP

TRG/11067

DMT/TS/13/GT1

1 Feb 45.

6815

SUBJECT: Progress Reports.

TO: G - 3 Trg (Air) AFHQ
G - 3 Trg (Br) 15 Army Group
MMLA

Enclosed herewith are Training Progress Reports in respect of:-

LEMON Group

PILCHER Group

MUSTARD Group

LEMON, PILCHER Groups have been instructed to forward copies of these reports direct to Eighth Army.

This Directorate has dealt with the question of shortage of trucks, 3cwt vans, 6 pdr towing vehicles and carriers raised by 56 HQ, and is also dealing with paras 14 and 15 of 56 HQ report.

Seen and read in 15th Gp.

W.D.

W. H. Tillett
Major
D.M.T. 2.

TCW/LAC

(497)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRETO

STATO MAGGIORE REGIO ESERCITO
UFFICIO ORDINAMENTO E MOBILITAZIONE
- Sezione Mobilitazione -

N° 12180/Mob. di prot. P.M.3800, lì 1° febb. 1945

OGGETTO : specchio situazione della forza.

All.: n° 4

AI COMANDI GRUPPI DI COMBATTIMENTO

AL CENTRO ADDESTRAMENTO COMPLEMENTI

e, per conoscenza:

ALLA LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. (M.M.I.A.) ROMA
AL MINISTERO GUERRA - Gabinetto - Uff.C.A. P.M.3800
AL MINISTERO GUERRA - Direz.Gen.Pers.Uff. P.M.3800
AL MINISTERO GUERRA - Dir.Gen.Leva Sott.e Tr. P.M.3800
AL COMANDO TERRITORIALE DI NAPOLI
AL COMANDO TERRITORIALE DI ROMA
ALLA DELEGAZIONE "T" DELLO S.M.R.E. P.M. 179
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Uff.del Capo di S.M. S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Uff.Segr.Gen.Addetto S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Operazioni S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Addestramento S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Servizi S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Segr.e Pers. S E D E

1) - Allo scopo di consentire una precisa ed uniforme segnalazione della "situazione della forza" da parte dei gruppi di combattimento e di permettere - in conseguenza - una precisa assegnazione di complementi sia generici che specializzati è stato concordato con la M.M.I.A. lo specchio (modello "A", formato grande) di cui all'annesso allegato 1.

2) - Con altro specchio (modello "A", formato piccolo), in corso di stampa e di diramazione nel numero di copie necessarie, verrà trasmessa la "situazione della forza" delle unità ausiliarie assegnate ai gruppi per l'approntamento, per la vita o per l'impiego. Di questi stessi specchi si serviranno le unità ausiliarie

AL MINISTERO GUERRA - Direz.Gen.Pers.Uff. P.M.3800
AL MINISTERO GUERRA - Dir.Gen.Leva Sott.e Tr. P.M.3800
AL COMANDO TERRITORIALE DI NAPOLI
AL COMANDO TERRITORIALE DI ROMA
ALLA DELEGAZIONE "T" DELLO S.M.R.E. P.M.179
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Uff.del Capo di S.M. S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Uff.Segr.Gen.Addetto S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Operazioni S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Addestramento S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Servizi S E D E
ALLO S.M.R.E. - Ufficio Segr.e Pers. S E D E

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

1) - Allo scopo di consentire una precisa ed uniforme segnalazione della "situazione della forza" da parte dei gruppi di combattimento e di permettere - in conseguenza - una precisa assegnazione di complementi sia generici che specializzati è stato concordato con la M.M.I.A. lo specchio (modello "A", formato grande) di cui all'annesso allegato 1.

2) - Con altro specchio (modello "A", formato piccolo), in corso di stampa e di diramazione nel numero di copie necessario, verrà trasmessa la "situazione della forza" delle unità ausiliarie assegnate ai gruppi per l'approntamento, per la vita o per l'impiego. Di questi stessi specchi si serviranno le unità minori (a cominciare dalla compagnia o unità similari) per segnalare i dati di forza ai comandi da cui dipendono fino al comando di gruppo di combattimento.

3) - Allo scopo di consentire a questo S.M. una dettagliata conoscenza della situazione ufficiali, i gruppi e le relative unità ausiliarie, trasmetteranno anche uno specchio della "situazione ufficiali" (modello "C") conforme all'annesso allegato 3.

4) - Nell'annesso allegato 3 sono riportate le norme per la compilazione e la trasmissione degli specchi di cui ai precedenti paragrafi 1), 2) e 3).

../..

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

5) - I presenti specchi annullano le altre segnalazioni compilate attualmente sia per la M.M.I.A., sia per i BLU, sia per questo S.M. od altri enti italiani ad eccezione :

a)- degli specchi mod. 1, 2, 3 e 4, trasmessi il 1° di ogni mese alla sez. statistica dell'ufficio ord.e mob. di questo S.M.;
b)- degli specchi "situazione forza effettiva, presente e vettovagliata" e "varianti alla dislocazione della forza", trasmessi il 9 e 24 di ogni mese alla sez. situazioni dell'ufficio operazioni di questo S.M.-

6) - Il centro addestramento complementi - cui gli specchi modello "A" formato grande e modello "C" vengono trasmessi - si varrà degli stessi per avviare i complementi (ufficiali, sottufficiali e truppa generici e specializzati) ai gruppi di combattimento e relative unità ausiliarie.

7) - Nell'annesso allegato 4 è indicato il numero di copie (fabbisogno per un bimestre, a partire dalla segnalazione del 10/2) inviato a ciascun gruppo di combattimento per la compilazione e la trasmissione dello specchio "A" formato grande e dello specchio "C".
Riserva di trasmettere lo specchio "A" formato piccolo, occorrente per le unità ausiliarie e per le segnalazioni nell'interno del gruppo.

8) - Gli specchi di cui trattasi (modello "A" formato grande e modello "C") dovranno essere compilati e trasmessi a partire da sabato 10 febbraio c.m.-

9) - Lo specchio modello "A", formato grande è aggiornato - per quanto concerne gli organici, la denominazione dei reparti, il numero degli specializzati - a tutta la 4^ serie di aggiunte e varianti (trasmesse con foglio 9114/Ord. del 5/12/44) del fascicolo "Formazioni ed organici provvisori per gruppo di combattimento".
Eventuali varianti successive saranno apportate a cura di codesto comando.
Le denominazioni relative agli specializzati - corrispondenti a quelle degli organici inglesi segnalati dalla M.M.I.A. - che appaiono nelle colonne 14 A ÷ 65 A, devono essere conservate anche in qualsiasi altra segnalazione o richiesta di personale specializzato.
In proposito si fa presente che sotto la voce "telegrafisti

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

7) – Nell'annesso allegato 4 é indicato il numero di copie (fabbisogno per un bimestre, a partire dalla segnalazione del 10/2) inviato a ciascun gruppo di combattimento per la compilazione e la trasmissione dello specchio "A" formato grande e dello specchio "C".
Riserva di trasmettere lo specchio "A" formato piccolo, occorrente per le unità ausiliarie e per le segnalazioni nell'interno del gruppo.

8) – Gli specchi di cui trattasi (modello "A" formato grande e modello "C") dovranno essere compilati e trasmessi a partire da sabato 10 febbraio c.m.-

9) – Lo specchio modello "A", formato grande é aggiornato – per quanto concerne gli organici, la denominazione dei reparti, il numero degli specializzati – a tutta la 4^ serie di aggiunte e varianti (trasmesse con foglio 9114/Ord. del 5/12/44) del fascicolo "Formazioni ed organici provvisori per gruppo di combattimento".
Eventuali varianti successive saranno apportate a cura di codesto comando.
Le denominazioni relative agli specializzati – corrispondenti a quelle degli organici inglesi segnalati dalla M.M.I.A. – che appaiono nelle colonne 14 A ÷ 65 A, devono essere conservate anche in qualsiasi altra segnalazione o richiesta di personale specializzato.
In proposito si fa presente che sotto la voce "telegrafisti altre armi – line operators other arms" (colonna 23 A) devono intendersi compresi anche i "fullerfonisti – phullerphone operators".

10) – I comandi gruppi di combattimento sono pregati assicurare a mezzo telescritto la ricezione del presente foglio e della relativa aliquota di stampati.

IL GENERALE ADDETTO
F.to Alessandro Santi

P. C. C.
IL COLONNELLO CAPO UFFICIO
(Guido Chiavarino)

S.M.R. UFF. ORD. e MOB.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Lod. "C"
Segreto

All.n.2 al

SPECCHIO SETTIMANALE DEFICIENZA UFFICIALI
GRUPPI DI COMB. ED UNITA' AUSILIARIE

Gruppo di comb. " ....."
Unità ausiliarie .....
.....
.....
.....

Situazione alle ore 12 di sabato .....

ARMA O CORPO	Deficienza complass. ufficiali			Ufficiali già assegnati, ma non presentat parte di destinazione			
	Sup.	Cap.	Sub.	Sup.	Cap.	Sub.	Estremi dell'ordine o dispacci
S.M.							
Fanteria							
Marina							
Artiglieria							
Genio							
Automobilisti							
Sanità							
Commissariato							
Amministrazione							
Sussistenza							
Posta militare							
Cappellani							
.....							
.....							

NOTE CIRCA LA SPECIALIZZAZIONE O EVENTUALI NOMINATIVI PROPOSTI :

2102

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

All.n.2 al f. 12180 /Mob.del 1/1ky

ECCHIO SETTIMANALE DEFICIENZA UFFICIALI
GRUPPI DI COMB. ED UNITA' AUSILIARIE

Gruppo di comb. " ....."
Unità ausiliarie .....
.....
bato ....
.....
.....

a	Ufficiali gia assegnati, ma non presentatisi al reparto di destinazione				Ufficiali ancora da assegnare		
o.	Sup.	Cap.	Sub.	Estremi dell'ordine o dispaccio di assegnaz	Sup.	Cap.	Sub.

ONE O EVENTUALI NOMINATIVI PROPOSTI :

2189

S. M. R. E. UFF. ORD. e MOB.

Allegato 3 al f° 12180/Mob.del 1° febb. 1945

NORME CIRCA LA COMPILAZIONE E TRASMISSIONE DELLO SPECCHIO 811

MODELLO "A" FORMATO GRANDE

1)- Enti a cui deve essere trasmesso e dati circa la compilazione :

a)- Lo specchio deve essere inviato il sabato di ciascuna settimana;

- al centro addestramento complementi;
- allo S.M.R.E.;
- al rispettivo B.L.U.;
- alla L.F.S.C. (M.M.I.A.).

b)- I dati in esso contenuti devono essere riferiti alle ore 1200 del sabato in cui lo specchio viene trasmesso.

c)- Nelle colonne 1A e 2A scrivere la forza effettiva al numeratore: i numeri già stampati al denominatore indicano l'organico.

d)- Nelle colonne dalla 14A in poi scrivere le deficienze di militari specializzati: il centro addestramento complementi ripianerà le deficienze in base alle indicazioni contenute in questo specchio.

e)- Le deficienze dovute a perdite devono riferirsi alle seguenti cause :

- caduti in combattimento o morti per malattia;
- feriti o malati, dopo 15 giorni di degenza nell'ospedale da campo del gruppo o non appena i degenti sono sgomberati dalla zona dell'ospedale da campo;
- dispersi o assenti, dopo 15 giorni di assenza;
- trasferiti permanentemente fuori del gruppo.

Non dovranno essere richiesti complementi per sostituire militari in viaggio o assenti per servizio o assegnazioni di carattere temporaneo.

f)- In caso di gravi perdite possono essere inviate speciali richieste al centro addestramento complementi in qualunque momento, dandone comunicazione anche allo S.M.R.E. e al B.L.U.-

g)- I dati contenuti inquesto specchio devono comprendere qualun-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

del sabato in cui lo specchio viene trasmesso.

c)- Nelle colonne 1A e 2A scrivere la forza effettiva al numeratore: i numeri già stampati al denominatore indicano l'organico.

d)- Nelle colonne dalla 14A in poi scrivere le deficienze di militari specializzati: il centro addestramento complementi ripianerà le deficienze in base alle indicazioni contenute in questo specchio.

e)- Le deficienze dovute a perdite devono riferirsi alle seguenti cause :

- caduti in combattimento o morti per malattia;
- feriti o malati, dopo 15 giorni di degenza nell'ospedale da campo del gruppo o non appena i degenti sono sgomberati dalla zona dell'ospedale da campo;
- dispersi o assenti, dopo 15 giorni di assenza;
- trasferiti permanentemente fuori del gruppo.

Non dovranno essere richiesti complementi per sostituire militari in viaggio o assenti per servizio o assegnazioni di carattere temporaneo.

f)- In caso di gravi perdite possono essere inviate speciali richieste al centro addestramento complementi in qualunque momento, dandone comunicazione anche allo S.M.R.E. e al B.L.O.-

g)- I dati contenuti inquesto specchio devono comprendere qualunque richiesta di personale eventualmente inviato nella settimana decorsa.

h)- Nel riferire telefonicamente o telegraficamente varianti da apportare ai dati contenuti nello specchio, impiegare il sistema delle coordinate, citando le coppie di numeri e lettere stampate in testa alle varie colonne verticali (1A, 2A, 3A ecc.) e le lettere stampate a fianco di ciascuna colonna orizzontale (C, D, E ..... BC, BD .....).
Esempio : per indicare che il IV gruppo da 25 libbre del reggimento artiglieria ha una deficienza di 5 autieri, si farà la seguente comunicazione :

X - 19A - 5

S.M.R.E. * UFF. ORD. * MOB.

../..

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

2)- Temporaneamente, e fino a quando si troverà in zona di approntamento, il gruppo MANTOVA trasmetterà, a modifica di quanto detto al precedente paragrafo 1) comma a), lo specchio bimensilmente (al 1 al 15 di ogni mese) anziché settimanalmente.
Il 1° specchio dovrà essere trasmesso riferito alla data del 15 febbraio p.v..
Non trasmetterà inoltre, sempre a modifica del precedente paragrafo 1) comma a), la copia alla M.M.I.A..

3)- Modalità di trasmissione alla M.M.I.A., S.M.R.E., centro add.cpl.:

a)- per i gruppi in zona avanzata (attualmente FRIULI, CREMONA, LEGNANO, FOLGORE): quelle di cui al foglio 9/1220 - 301/Serv. in data 21/1/45 dell'ufficio servizi di questo S.M.;

b)- per il gruppo MANTOVA: a ½ motociclista, che recapiterà le copie dello S.M.R.E. e del centro add. cpl. alla posta militare 3800 in Roma, che ne curerà l'inoltro a destinazione.

NOTA : nella "avvertenza" riportata sullo specchio "A" apportare le seguenti correzioni :

- paragrafo e) : cancellare il trattino all'inizio della 7ª riga e unire il testo che segue alla riga precedente:
  - feriti o malati, dopo 15 giorni di degenza nell'ospedale da campo del gr. ..... .

NORME CIRCA LA TRASMISSIONE DELLO SPECCHIO MODELLO "C"

1)- Lo specchio modello "C" dovrà essere trasmesso :

- al Ministero Guerra - Direz.Gen.Pers.Ufficiali;
- allo S.M.R.E.;
- al centro addestramento complementi.

2)- Circa le date di compilazione, e le modalità di trasmissioni

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LEGNANO, FOLGORE): qu[illegible]
in data 21/1/45 dell'ufficio servizi di questo S.M.;

b)- per il gruppo MANTOVA: a ½ motociclista, che recapiterà le copie dello S.M.R.E. e del centro add. cpl. alla posta militare 3800 in Roma, che ne curerà l'inoltro a destinazione.

NOTA : nella "avvertenze" riportate sullo specchio "A" apportare le seguenti correzioni :

- paragrafo c) : cancellare il trattino all'inizio della 7^ riga e unire il testo che segue alla riga precedente:
  - feriti o malati, dopo 15 giorni di degenza nell'ospedale da campo del gr. ..... .

NORME CIRCA LA TRASMISSIONE DELLO SPECCHIO MODELLO "C"

1)- Lo specchio modello "C" dovrà essere trasmesso :

- al Ministero Guerra - Direz.Gen.Pers.Ufficiali;
- allo S.M.R.E.;
- al centro addestramento complementi.

2)- Circa le date di compilazione, e le modalità di trasmissioni vale quanto detto per lo specchio modello "A".

S.M.R.E. UFF. ORD. e MOB.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Allegato 4 al f°12180/Mob.del 1° febb. 1945

6809

DISTRIBUZIONE SPECCHI MODELLO " A "
(per ciascun gruppo di combattimento)

1) - Formato grande (per ciascun comando gruppo di combattimento):

- 5 alla settimana, per un bimestre	40	copie
- scorta	30	"
TOTALE	70	copie

2) - Formato piccolo (sarà inviato in un secondo tempo) :

a)- per le unità ausiliarie con ciascun gruppo :

- 5 alla settimana, per un bimestre	40	copie
- scorta	30	"
TOTALE	70	copie

b)- per uso interno nel gruppo di combattimento :

- per 2 rgt.ftr., per un bimestre	576	copie
- per 1 rgt.art., " " "	304	"
- per 1 btg.genio, " " "	64	"
- per 1 sz.sanità, " " "	16	"
- per 2 osp.da campo, " "	32	"
- per 1 rep.trasp.rif. " "	16	"
- per 1 parco mob.A.G.A. "	16	"
- per 2 sz. CC.RR. " " "	32	"
- scorta " " "	244	"
TOTALE	1.300	copie

DISTRIBUZIONE SPECCHI MODELLO " C "

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

2) - Formato piccolo (sarà inviato in un secondo tempo) :

a)- per le unità ausiliarie con ciascun gruppo :

- 5 alla settimana, per un bimestre	40	copie
- scorta	30	"
TOTALE	70	copie

b)- per uso interno nel gruppo di combattimento :

- per 2 rgt.ftr., per un bimestre	576	copie
- per 1 rgt.art., " " "	304	"
- per 1 btg.genio, " " "	64	"
- per 1 sz.sanità, " " "	16	"
- per 2 osp.da campo, " "	32	"
- per 1 rep.trasp.rif. " "	16	"
- per 1 parco mob.A.C.A. "	16	"
- per 2 sz. CC.RR. " " "	32	"
- scorta " " "	244	"
TOTALE	1.300	copie

DISTRIBUZIONE SPECCHI MODELLO " C "

- Per ciascun comando gruppo di combattimento :

- 4 alla settimana, per un bimestre	32	copie
- scorta	18	"
TOTALE	50	copie

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET

SUBJECT: Strength and Deficiency Returns

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. S/9/29/32
Jan 45

TO : MMIA LO RTC ICF

6808

1. Herewith latest collated strength and deficiency returns from Combat Groups.

2. Please note that the War Establishments quoted are those of the new bilingual proforma Mod "A" which will shortly be circulated.

K.G.A.S.K.
for Lt. Col.
G. S.

Internal: Float
Circulator

WS

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Combat Group - CREMONA
Date of Return - 20 Jan 45
War Establishment - 9000
Posted Strength -
Fighting Strength - 7572
Deficiency (Posted) -
Deficiency (Fighting) - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 1878 incl 5% surplus

DEFICIENCY OF SPECIALISTS DETAIL	War Establishment		Deficiency	
Drivers (incl tracked veh dvrs)	1204		125	
Smiths	38		4	
Bricklayers	56		10	
Draughtsmen	7		-	
Motor Mechanics	91		-	
Electricians	35		13	
Pump Operators	14		5	
Sappers (Miners)	24		4	
Boilermen (Macchinisti or Conduttori di Caldaie a vap)	2		-	
Plumbers	8		3	
Driver Mechanics	171		25	
Boatmen	8		2	
Motor Cyclists	277		25	
Telephone Engineers	7		2	
Radio Engineers	16		(12 Sigs (4 other (arms	
Linesmen	75	(43 Sigs (32 Other Arms	-	
W/T Operators	456	(89 Sigs (367 Other Arms	95	(36 Sigs (59 other (Arms
Telegraphists	57	(39 Sigs (18 Other Arms	14	
Exchange Operators	55	(15 Sigs (40 Other Arms	6	
Cipher Operators	13		5	
Director Operators	95		-	
Telephonists				
Tractor Drivers (see under Drivers)				
Armourers)	(78			
Armourers' Mechanics) plus	(23	Gun fitters	21	
Carpenters	82		14	
Mechanics (Fitters)	37		4	
Signallers				
Engineers				
Artificiers	13		-	
Medical Orderlies	123		11	
Stretcher Bearers	242		2	
Camouflage Specialists			5	
TOTAL			410	

Reinforcements Despatched since last return: 600 ex CESANO; 150 ex IMO Coy; 470 Patriots — 1220

6807

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

REMARKS: 51 HLU advised that the following reinforcements arriving 21st Jan at PESARO	460 Inf 60 Cmrs 30 Engrs 15 R/T 35 Unclassified	)))))	598
51 HLU advised that further 200 men due shortly			200

6806

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Combat Group	FULGORE
Date of Return	20 Jan 45
War Establishment	9000
Posted Strength	9067
Fighting Strength	8736
Deficiency (Posted)	383 incl 5%
Deficiency (Fighting)	264

DEFICIENCY OF SPECIALISTS DETAIL	War Establishment		Deficiency
Drivers	1204		241 (152 Dvrs (89 tractor Dvrs
Smiths	38		6
Bricklayers	56		4
Draughtsmen	7		-
Motor Mechanics	91		46
Electricians	35		8
Pump Operators	14		5
Sappers (Miners)	24		10
Boilermen (Macchinisti or Conduttori di caldaie a Vap)	2		-
Plumbers	8		3
Driver Mechanics	171		9
Boatmen	8		3
Motorcyclists	277		-
Telephone Engineers	7		1
Radio Engineers	16		2
Linesmen	75	(43 Sigs (32 Other Arms	-
W/T Operators	456	(89 Sigs (367 Other Arms	207
Telegraphists	57	(39 Sigs (18 Other Arms	3
Exchange Operators	55	(15 Sigs (40 Other Arms	-
Cipher Operators	13		2
Director Operators	95		41
Telephonists			68
Tractor Drivers (see under Drivers)		(See Above)	
Armourers	78		
Armourers' Mechanics	plus 23	Gun Fitters	62
Carpenters	82		-
Mechanics (Fitters)	37		5
Signallers			
Engineers			
Artificiers	13		3
Medical Orderlies	123		25
General Duties			
TOTAL			754

Reinforcements dispatched since last return NIL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Combat Group	FR I
Date of Return	1800 hrs 22 Jan 45
War Establishment	9000
Posted Strength	8118
Fighting Strength	7862
Deficiency (Posted)	882
Deficiency (Fighting)	1138

DEFICIENCY OF SPECIALISTS	War Establishment	Deficiency.
Drivers (incl Tracked Veh Dvrs)	1204	97
Smiths	38	6
Bricklayers.	56	-
Draughtsmen	7	-
Motor Mechanics.	91	42
Electricians	35	9
Pump Operators	14	6
Sappers (Miners)	24	2
Boilermen (Macchinisti ~~di laboratori~~ di conduttori di caldaie a vapore)	2	1
Plumbers	8	1
Driver Mechanics	171	4
Boatmen	8	2
Motor Cyclists	277	57
Telephone Engineers	7	-
Radio Engineers	16	-
Linesmen	75 (43 Sigs, 32 Other Arms)	-
W/T Operators	456 (89 Sigs, 367 Other Arms)	144
Telegraphists	57 (39 Sigs, 18 Other Arms)	-
Exchange Operators	55 (15 Sigs, 40 Other Arms)	20
Cipher Operators	13	-
Director Operators	95	24
Telephonists		
Tracked Veh Drivers (see under Drivers)		
Armourers / Armourer Mechanics	(78 (plus 23 gunfitters	73
Carpenters	82	7
Mechanics (Fitters)	37	5
Signallrs		
Engineers		
Artificers	13	-
Medical Orderlies	123	-
General Duties		841
TOTAL		1335
Reinforcements despatched since last return	600 Ex CESANO 500 Patrols	1100

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Combat Group	GNANO
Date of Return	18 Jan 45
War Establishment	9000
Posted Strength	9738
Fighting Strength	9061
Deficiency (Posted)	338 surplus incl 5%
Deficiency (Fighting)	61 surplus NOT incl 5%

DEFICIENCY OF SPECIALISTS	War Establishment	Deficiency.
Drivers	1204	193
Smiths	38	-42
Bricklayers	56	10
Draughtsmen	7	2
Motor Mechanics	91	39
Electricians	35	8
Pump Operators	14	6803
Sappers (Miners)	24	-
Boilermen (Macchinisti ~~a bordo~~ or conduttori di caldaie a vap)	2	-
Plumbers	8	5
Driver Mechanics	171	4
Boatmen	8	4
Motor cyclists	277	50
Telephone Engineers	7	-
Radio Engineers	16	11
Linesmen	75 (43 Sigs 32 Other Arms	-
W/T Operators	456 (89 Sigs 367 Other Arms	70
Telegraphists	57 (39 Sigs 18 Other Arms	-
Exchange Operators	55 (15 Sigs 40 Other Arms	-
Cipher Operators	13	-
Director Operators	95	-
Telephonists		-
Tracked Veh Drivers (See under drivers)	(Incl drivers	-
Armourers	(78 plus	24
Armourer Mechanics	(23 gunfitters	3
Carpenters	82	16
Mechanics (Fitters)	37	3
Signallers		-
Engineers		-
Artificers	13	-
Medical Orderlies	123	-
General Duties		-
TOTAL		445
Reinforcements despatched since last return		Nil

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Combat Group	ANZIO
Date of Return	28 Jan 45
War Establishment	9000
Posted Strength	8530
Fighting Strength	6612
Deficiency (Posted)	920 incl 5%
Deficiency (Fighting)	2388

DEFICIENCY OF SPECIALISTS	War Establishment	Deficiency

6802

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ, CMF

Tel: 11667

DMT/35/12/MT1

25 Jan 45.

G-3 Trg (Br) AFHQ
G-3 Trg (Br) HQ 15 Army Group
M.M.I.A.

SUBJECT: Progress Reports - Training

Enclosed herewith are Progress Reports in respect of

LEGATO Group
FORGER Group
MANTOVA Group

} *

* Sir. Reports are on respective files. We have rec'd them before.

DMT/he

D.M.T.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

195

29/32

Subject:- Italian Army - Absentees and Deserters.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
AQ/11/3

16 Jan 45.

MINISTRY OF WAR.

Further to our AQ/11/3 of 2 Jan/45.

1. The attached lists show particulars of Absentees and Deserters from Friuli Combat Group for the periods. 1 Sept - 31 Oct/44 and 10 Nov - 30 Nov/44.

2. A similar report as called for in para 3 of the above quoted letter, is required in respect of Absentees and Deserters shown on the attached list. Please forward this report on 28 Feb/45.

P.J. HOARE, Col.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:- Special Section
M.M.I.A.

6800

SPA/ab

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

COPY

194

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SAC CITE FWDCT 29/32

TO : / A

F 80846

SECRET

REFERENCE 15 ARMY GROUP CABLE SD 1112 OF 6 (.) PARA FIRST (.)
F IULI ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP PASSES FROM COLD DISTONE TO COLD
FIFTH ARMY WEF 14 JAN (.) ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOVE ARE BEING MADE
DIRECT BETWEEN 15 ARMY GROUP AND DISTONE (.) PARA SECOND (.)
DMT RECOMMEND LEGNANO GROUP STAY IN PRESENT LOCATION UNTIL 25
JAN OWING TO PRESENT STATE OF TRAINING (.) SUGGEST ADV PARTY
MOVES 15 JAN TO RADDA BALANCE 25 JAN (.) PARA THIRD (.) IN VIEW
OF LATEST DMT REPORT SENT UNDER REF DMT/55/12/MM1 DATED 2 JAN
CONFIRM YOU ARE PREPARED ACCEPT FOLGORE GROUP 12 JAN [redacted] IN PRESENT
STATE TRAINING (.) IF NOT SUGGEST ADV PARTY MOVES AS FOR LEGNANO (.)
ALL INFORMED

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE 6799

SD DIST: S/Sec A/Q
S/SD/30
SD/50
FLOAT

192

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LROF V MWRU NR Ø6/659

FROM 51 BLU Ø52120A

TO HQ MMIA

GR 21

A4/7 (.) RESTRICTED (.) YOUR S/G/29/32 TELINGUAL [redacted] PRO FORMA
NOT REPEATED NOT RECEIVED FROM S M E (.) PLEASE EXPEDITE

BT

SENT GB Ø350A B K

RD NR 659 DML Ø350 (K)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET

SUBJECT: Italian Groups - Training Progress Reports

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ, CMF

Tel: 11667

DMT/55/12/MT1

2 Jan 45.

G-3 Trg (Br) AFHQ
M.M.I.A.
HQ 15 Army Group

Attached are Progress Reports in respect of

LEGNANO Group
FOLGORE Group
MANTOVA Group

Sir. Prog reports are on respective files. There are duplicates.

H.M. Gillett
Major
Brig.,
D.M.T.

HM/he

191

V.9
2.b 6 Sec

WP

1/37.

Subject :- Absence in Gruppo CREMONA

CONFIDENTIAL

To :-
M M I A

51 British Liaison Unit

177

A 4/7

G.O.C. ——
2i/c. ——
G.S.O.I. ——
A.Q. ——

10 Corps
Main 8 Army
50 BLU

Ref your 83/502 of 27 Dec, the main causes of absence are three fold in my opinion.

1 Christmas and New Year. The large majority of recent absentees were men who walked off to get home for Xmas. It is, of course, typical of the whole Italian levity of outlook combined with their strong sense of family ties. There is also a certain excuse, perhaps, for those who are in Italy for Xmas for the first time since the outbreak of war but I am NOT satisfied that there are such a large proportion of these men. The question of Xmas leave was badly handled by Gruppo HQ. For some reason the story was spread among the troops that 400 men per Regt were going on Xmas leave and when actually some 120 were granted leave there was considerable disappointment. The fact that the Comd 21 Regt, the Comd Genio Bn and Generale ZANUSSI the 2 i/c of the Gruppo were all given Xmas leave to go home did NOT in my opinion help the situation. The majority of the "Xmas absentees" are expected back by the Gruppo and they are - in fact - coming back in reasonable numbers.

2 Political. There is NO doubt that morale has deteriorated since the arrival of the Gruppo in this area. It is NOT a serious deterioration but is definitely perceptible. I ascribe this to the fact that the personnel of the Gruppo are now in close contact with the civil population. In the BENEVENTO area the troops did NOT mix with the civilians at all, and the Gruppo was mostly under canvas on inaccessible hill sides. Here the troops are confronted by the spectacle of an entirely untouched little town and numerous snug villages set in a valley which flows with milk and honey - by wartime standards. The civil population is smug and appears comfortable. Numbers of well dressed and well fed young men parade the piazza all day. A number of these have received call-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

absentees were men who walked off to get home for Xmas. It is, of course, typical of the whole Italian levity of outlook combined with their strong sense of family ties. There is also a certain excuse, perhaps, for those who are in Italy for Xmas for the first time since the outbreak of war but I am NOT satisfied that there are such a large proportion of these men. The question of Xmas leave was badly handled by Gruppo HQ. For some reason the story was spread among the troops that 400 men per Regt were going on Xmas leave and when actually some 120 were granted leave there was considerable disappointment. The fact that the Comd 21 Regt, the Comd Genio Bn and Generale ZANUSSI the 2 i/c of the Gruppo were all given Xmas leave to go home did NOT in my opinion help the situation. The majority of the "Xmas absentees" are expected back by the Gruppo and they are - in fact - coming back in reasonable numbers.

2 Political. There is NO doubt that morale has deteriorated since the arrival of the Gruppo in this area. It is NOT a serious deterioration but is definitely perceptible. I ascribe this to the fact that the personnel of the Gruppo are now in close contact with the civil population. In the BENEVENTO area the troops did NOT mix with the civilians at all, and the Gruppo was mostly under canvas on inaccessible hill sides. Here the troops are confronted by the spectacle of an entirely untouched little town and numerous snug villages set in a valley which flows with milk and honey - by wartime standards. The civil population is smug and appears comfortable. Numbers of well dressed and well fed young men parade the piazzas all day. A number of these have received call-up papers but ignore them with perfect impunity. The impotence of the Central Govt is reflected in the lack of action by the local authorities. All this has a disturbing effect on the troops. They are also the target for propaganda by all parties - notably the well organised little local Communist Party. I am convinced that this latter is subversive despite the attitude of the Communist Press which, as you are aware, supports increased participation in the war effort.

3 Discipline and Man Management. The lack of a real discipline as opposed to the outward forms is at the root of the whole absence trouble. The standard of saluting is high in the Gruppo and respect for officers is outwardly marked. I note however that the average order is regarded as a basis for discussion and every reprimand is inevitably followed by the "explanation."

/To Page 2 ..

6797

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Man-management is, of course, entirely unknown in the Italian Army though ALL officers since their contact with the British Army pay fervid lip-service to it. A typical example was given by the Gruppo Adv Party on their arrival at ASCOLI. All the officers took immediate steps to find themselves good billets and only when hounded by my representatives did they consider finding some accommodation for the rank and file. It is only fair to add that the other ranks displayed NO resentment at this neglect and in fact found satisfactory quarters for themselves. I am convinced that it is the exception for an Italian platoon commander to know anything about the lives of his men. I need not emphasise that constant stress on this aspect is made by all British officers connected with the Gruppo.

The first two causes of absence - the transitory one of the Christmas season and the disturbing contacts with civil influences - will disappear when the Gruppo moves into the battle area. The real essential cause will, in my opinion, always be with us and is bound up in the Italian make-up.

As regards the suspicion, which you refer to, that Gruppi are sending away political undesirables and classing them as absentees I am convinced that this is NOT occurring in the Gruppo CREMONA. Some 20 undesirables were - with my sanction - discharged during the time I have been with this formation. None were shown as absentees and all were - I am informed - a bad influence to their comrades.

I have drawn the attention of Generale PRIMIERI to the seriousness of his absence problem. He is fully alive to this and it is, I know, a constant preoccupation to him and his staff. I gather desertion is always the chief problem of the Italian Army and one of the attractions which our move forward holds for the Generale is the prospect of decreasing the facilities of absence among his men.

F.N. McCarthy

Field

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

neglect and in fact found satisfactory quarters for themselves. I am convinced that it is the exception for an Italian platoon commander to know anything about the lives of his men. I need not emphasise that constant stress on this aspect is made by all British officers connected with the Gruppo.

The first two causes of absence - the transitory one of the Christmas season and the disturbing contacts with civil influences - will disappear when the Gruppo moves into the battle area. The real essential cause will, in my opinion, always be with us and is bound up in the Italian make-up.

As regards the suspicion, which you refer to, that Gruppi are sending away political undesirables and classing them as absentees I am convinced that this is NOT occurring in the Gruppo CREMONA. Some 20 undesirables were - with my sanction - discharged during the time I have been with this formation. None were shown as absentees and all were - I am informed - a bad influence to their comrades.

I have drawn the attention of Generale PRIMIERI to the seriousness of his absence problem. He is fully alive to this and it is, I know, a constant preoccupation to him and his staff. I gather desertion is always the chief problem of the Italian Army and one of the attractions which our move forward holds for the Generale is the prospect of decreasing the facilities of absence among his men.

Field
1 Jan 45
BWD/RGT

H N Wellington

Lt Col
General Staff

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

C/5904 NR 45/30 1732

45/30

29/32 DNF

A NOT

LRKB V LAEE NR15

FROM 53 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

TO MMIA

QQX GR8 BT

A/Q A2

REF YOUR SS502 OF 27 DEC.

ACK

THI 301100

SENT NR15 301312A IH AR

RECD NR Q// 15 1312A CWY AR

HEADQUARTERS
30 DEC 1944
C-6796

Sent WP

301400

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

186

MSGA

53 BLU

29/12

1555

29

A

Restricted

SS 510

Agreed your A/Q - A2 - 30 of 29th Dec but reply my SS 502 earliest

6795

DISTRIBUTE

W. R. Trevelyan H.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** Register No. 1764

Cyrke Arrival

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
R			29 32 3

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

635

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLH — Date-Time of Origin: 290950A — OFFICE DATE STAMP — S/Sec

For Action: MMIA

TO

(W) For information (INFO) 176

—Message Instructions— | —GR—

Originator's No.

A/Q-AA-20 Ref msgs S.S 501 & 27 Dec O
All arms Platoons to turn in personal items
-less as at 1200 hrs Saturday. O. This to be
submitted by Combat Group Agencies HQ 6794
Monday O Request reconsideration submit return
by msgs SS 501 & 27 Dec ex Monday commencing 1 am
on 31st commencing 29 Dec

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT) WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREES OF PRIORITY

Refer - AGREED but
refer also my SS 502 earlier.

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR		
Time cleared		

SIGNED

SIGNED

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Land [illegible] 28/29 184

14/29 C/5741 3574

29/32

175

HEADQUARTERS
22 DEC 1944
A. C.

[illegible] 28/616

[illegible]

[illegible] 51 DLU 231545Z

TO [illegible]

[illegible]

16/1 (.) [illegible] 2 DLU (.) [illegible] (.) 382 (2) 701

(.) 38 (2) 162 (1) 1074

DT 1500Z

[illegible] 3211A WIL

NR [illegible] 016 P LCN 9211 . . A

WD

6793

29905

✓

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

CIPHER SECRET

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** 32/1 183

Register No. 6028

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
S			917

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: 50 BLH — Date-Time of Origin: 281600 — OFFICE DATE STAMP

For Action: HQ MMIA

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

—Message Instructions— | —GR—

Originator's No.

AG 573 SECRET ⊙ Ref your SS 502 ⊙
1 ⊙ Effective 8292 reduced to 8297 if pronounced less calculated
for 15 not 30 days absence ⊙ Forward 7403 ⊙
2 ⊙ Main causes are men not returned from leave and desertion ⊙
Non punishment previous deserters ⊙ Difficult (prevent)
Recording fully in Allied Transport ⊙
3 ⊙ Reply will follow

6792

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS {EXCEPT} WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREES OF PRIORITY: IMMEDIATE

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR: 291700A		
Time cleared		

SIGNED

SIGNED

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

CIPHER SECRET

ARMY FORM C 2116 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** Register No. 59/28

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			916

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: 50 BEU — Date-Time of Origin: 281650A — OFFICE DATE STAMP

For Action: MMIA (175)

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

—Message Instructions— | —OR—

Originator's No. AC 5740 (SECRET?) Ref your SS 4944

B 608
B 258
C 265
D 150
E 1089

6791

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS [EXCEPT] WIRELESS	IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER	ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREES OF PRIORITY	Time	System	Op.
			THI or TOR 281730A		
			Time cleared		
SIGNED	SIGNED [illegible]	IMMEDIATE			

P.S.S./B/D 30/100 M x 100/9-45

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LRCF V NEDY VLRSJ NR 172
FROM 93 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT 2715Z/A
TO NMIA
TOR GR S DT
C/S/A2/29 RESTRICTED
REF YOUR 26521 OF 27 DEC . ACK
TJI 261130A
SENT OK 172 1303 WTK RL K
RECD OK 172 "SLW " 1303 A/28 (-S-)

43/28 29/32 181 9:30

S/See ... 6790

WP

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LROF V LRAR NR 9175
T

FROM 51 BLU NFT
TO MMIA
BT

C2 YOUR SS 501 OF 27 DEC
ACK

SENT NR 9175 2140 RJW B

1147

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** Register No. 12 | 28

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
R		—	QNR 4 & 7

24/32

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: HQ 15 ARMY GP — Date Time of Origin: 271645

For Action

TO Main 8 ARMY 5 ARMY for BRIT INCR A DISTONE

(W) For information (INFO)

MMIA 50 51 52 53 54 BLUS WP

OFFICE DATE STAMP 630 8/Sep

Message Instructions — GR —

Originator's No. A52

SECRET D

Subject ITALIAN GRUPPI O

Request 60,000 AFs W 3007 daily fighting strengths in respect of ITALIAN GRUPPI under your command subm. HQ 678 Fd Sig HQ daily through usual channels

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT) WIRELESS	IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER	ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY	Time	Sy. Sta.	Op.
		—	THI or TOR 271715		
			Time cleared		

SIGNED

SIGNED

PSS B D 1 (OKW) 200. 6.43

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

CIPHER SECRET

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) MESSAGE FORM Register No. 66/27

Call	Sel. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLU — Date-Time of Origin: 271430A — OFFICE DATE STAMP

For Action: MMIA

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

noted WD

Originator's No.: A/Q-Q4-27 O Ref. your SS of 23rd Dec O

(a) 177
(b) 46
(c) 48
(d) 18
(e) 157

(494?)

—Message Instructions— | —GR—

P-S-S/B/D-50/100 M x 100/8-44

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT WIRELESS	IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER	ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREES OF PRIORITY	Time Sys. Op. THI or TOR 271530A Time cleared
SIGNED	SIGNED	175	6788

1149

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Copy also on S/AL 25/27

77

29/32

MIXA

271531 A

50, 51, 52, 53, 56 BLUE

SS 502

SECRET

FIRST (.) In addition to strengths required in my SS 501 of 27 Dec signal group effective and ON ground strengths today (.) SECOND (.) Signal main causes of wastage since 15 Dec (.) THIRD (.) Signal information asked for in my SS 494 of 23 Dec on absentees for November immediately and for December earliest (.) AOK

6787

EXPEDITE

W. Pickering
Colonel.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Ltr 176

Body also on 5/4/29/27

29/32

MMIA

27 09 14 A

50,51,52,53 and 55 S.L.Us.

SS 501

SECRET

Reinforcements situation critical in view of excessive wastage (.) Until Italian system working properly, i.e. until further orders MLUS will send weekly strength signal to MMIA using VWXYZ code and specialist deficiency signal using numerical code as previously (.) Begin on 29 Dec with mid weekly additional signal if losses warrant it (.) 50 and 51 to explain reason sudden drop in strength 23-27 Dec as reported to MMIA by AFHQ (.)

ACK

W Ridsdale Colonel

6786

IMMEDIATE

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

MESSAGE FORM

From :- MIA

To :- 50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU

Date - Time

23 1447 A

23 494

Security Classification CONFIDENTIAL

Subject absentees from Combat Groups (.) FIRST (.) following information required for month of November by signal earliest (.) (A) numbers absent without leave (B) numbers overstayed leave (C) numbers of A since returned (D) numbers of B since returned (E) numbers AWOL at present time (.) SECOND (.) Similar information required for December when available

Precedence IMPORTANT

Authenticating Officer W P Darby colonel 6785

173

RESTRICTED

Subject :- Strength Returns.

Land Forces Sub-Com. A.C.
(M.E.I.A.)

S/C/29/32
23 Dec., 44.

To:- 50, 51, 52, 53, 56 BLUs.

Copy to Ministry of War.
M.E.I.A. L.C. R.T.C. I.C.F.

6781

1. A bilingual proforma (specchio) is shortly to be issued by the S.M.R.S. on which Combat Groups which have moved to the forward areas will make out their weekly strength return, including deficiencies of specialists, for forwarding to R.T.C. I.C.F., copies to M.E.I.A., the B.L.O., and, until further notice, M.E.I.A.

2. These returns should be sent direct by the Group via the ordinary Allied Signals services, with whom both R.T.C. I.C.F. and the Ministry of War are now being linked. details of these will follow later.

3. Once this system begins, M.E.I.A. will require from B.L.O.s no further reports on provision of personnel, except any special comments which the B.L.O. may wish to make on the return, or separately.

4. The above paragraphs refer to Groups and B.L.O.s in the forward areas only.

5. Groups which are still in the reorganisation area under command S.M.R.S. will use the proforma referred to above in giving the B.L.O. the information required for the bi-weekly returns to be submitted to M.E.I.A. in accordance with our S/C/29/32 of 30th November and No 465 of 12th December. These returns show the situation on the 1st and 15th of each month. The Group will send copies to S.M.R.S. [illegible] I.C.F., and the latter will send reinforcements accordingly [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6781

1. A bilingual proforma (specific) is shortly to be issued by the A.M.D.S. on which Combat Groups which have moved to the forward areas will make out their weekly strength return, including deficiencies of specialists, for forwarding to A.F.H.Q. I.C.F., copies to A.M.D.S., the S.L.O., and, until further notice, M.M.I.A.

2. These returns should be sent direct by the Group via the ordinary Allied Signals services, with whom both A.F.H.Q. I.C.F. and the Ministry of War are now being linked, details of these will follow later.

3. Once this system begins, M.M.I.A. will require from S.L.O.s no further reports on provision of personnel, except any special comments which the S.L.O. may wish to make on the return, or separately.

4. The above paragraphs refer to Groups and S.L.O.s in the forward areas only.

5. Groups which are still in the reorganisation area under command A.M.D.S. will use the proforma referred to above in giving the S.L.O. the information required for the bi-monthly returns to be submitted to M.M.I.A. in accordance with our M/G/29/32 of 30th November and M/G 465 of 12th December. These returns show the situation on the 1st and 15th of each month. The Group will send copies to A.M.D.S. and A.F.H.Q. I.C.F., and the latter will send reinforcements accordingly so far as it can. In this case it is not necessary for the Group to send a copy to M.M.I.A.

6. On the basis of the proforma 52, 53 and 56 S.L.O.s are requested to submit the same return as that now in force. The return is requested in quadruplicate as copies have now to be sent to A.F.H.Q., 15 Army Group and M.M.I. In making out the return the percentage of the W.E. should be calculated on the posted strength and not on the ~~males~~ numbers actually present.

7. For both categories of Group, those in forward areas and those under command A.M.D.S., a separate return will be attached to the main one showing the same information for ~~any~~ Auxiliary Units attached to the Group.

W. Pidsley. Lt Col
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

172

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Progress Reports on LEGNANO and FOLGORE.

Land Forces Sub-Cor. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
S/G/29/32
22 Dec 44

TO : A.F.H.Q.
15 Army Group,
D.T (56 Area),

1. Reference A.A.I.'s 1605/50/73/G(SD) of 17th November and A.F.H.Q.'s AG 091.711/107 GCT-G of 27th November, attached are progress reports on organisation of personnel for LEGNANO and FOLGORE Groups.

2. The anticipated date of completion of both groups to W.E. plus 5% reinforcements is 15th January.

3. The only special difficulty is the provision of the right types of specialist. It is felt that these difficulties will be largely overcome if support is given by A.F.H.Q. to the proposals now being worked out for the establishment of the Reinforcement Training [illegible]. 6783

4. It is hoped that the necessary specialists will also have been trained or found by 15th January. We are framing a scheme whereby training will be adequate, and action as regards making up deficiencies should be automatic on the part of the War Ministry, any difficulties being reported to MMIA urgently.

5. A return for MANTUA will be forwarded showing the situation on 1st January. Owing to the disbandment of PICENO, the move of the Reinforcement Training Centre and consequent re-shuffling of personnel it is not possible to give an accurate picture of the MANTUA Group at this stage.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1. Reference A.A.I.'s 1605/50/73/G(SD) of 17th November and A.F.H.Q.'s AC 091.711/107 GOT-O of 27th November, attached are progress reports on organisation of personnel for LECHANG and POLICHE Groups.

2. The anticipated date of completion of both groups to W.E. plus 5% reinforcements is 15th January.

3. The only special difficulty is the provision of the right types of specialist. It is felt that these difficulties will be largely overcome if support is given by A.F.H.Q. to the proposals now being worked out for the establishment of the Reinforcement Training Centre. 6783.

4. It is hoped that the necessary specialists will also have been trained or found by 15th January. We are framing a scheme whereby training will be adequate, and action as regards making up deficiencies should be automatic on the part of the War Ministry, any difficulties being reported to MMIA urgently.

5. A return for MANTOVA will be forwarded showing the situation on 1st January. Owing to the disbandment of PICENO, the move of the Reinforcement Training Centre and consequent re-shuffling of personnel it is not possible to give an accurate picture of the MANTOVA Group at this stage.

Major General
M.M.I.A.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1156

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

17146

MESSAGE FORM

From : MMYA

To : 52, 53, 56 BLUS

Date - Time 12/8/12 A

Ja 1/32.

SS 465

RESTRICTED

Reference S/G/29/32 of & 30 November (.) Future reports will be twice monthly not ten daily and show position on 1st and 15th of each month (.) New standard proforma in preparation will be available shortly (.) Meanwhile please use old

Precedence IMPORTANT

Authenticating Officer J.P. Dobbs Major

6782

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Progress Reports 9

To :- H.Q., 3 District.
- - - - - - - - -
AMFG 9(AE)
Ord

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 3
5 Dec 44.

169

1. Ref AMFG/9193/9(AE) of 2 Nov 44.

2. Herewith weekly report on the state of equipment held by Combat Group [illegible] as requested.

6781

[signature]
Lt. Col.
C.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU
letter Ref Q11-3
of 5 Dec 44.

168

Weekly Progress Report No. 4 - State of Equipment [illegible]
By Combat Group A/2GBU on ab 5 Dec 44.

1. Controlled Stores.

PIATs	(Complete)	12
LMG Bren	(Complete)	30

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

Shirts, angola, drab or A/L	1500		
Web equipment c/w valise and pack	Nil	except for Belts, web	5000
		carriers water bottle	10000
Greatcoats	6500		
Boots	8000		
Blankets	10000		

Notes.

(a) All figures take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter B/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to this Group, 490 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

3. Other G 1090 stores (Details of major deficiencies)

Only G 1098 scale of signal equipment has been collected. Approx 6780 of this equipment has now been collected and the most serious deficiencies are tradesmans' kits (E.S., Dvr Mech, Linesmen, Mech, etc.).

L. H. Mark.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

167

Appx ' to 53 B.L.U. letter
Ref A2 - 24
4 Dec 44

Combat Group FULGORE

Weekly Progress Report for week ending 1800 hrs Saturday 2 Dec 44

1. Organisation.

(a) Officers on W.E. of B.L.U. - Up to strength. No change.

(b) Other Ranks on W.E. of B.L.U.

Deficiencies are :-

R.Sigs	3
Clerks	1
E.O.W.C.	3
OR General Duties	1
Officers mess orderly	1

ACC Cook has been posted and is expected to arrive within two days.

(c) Other Ranks attached to B.L.U.

Six Storemen RAOC are still awaited from 51 B.L.U.

(d) Combat Gp

As attached state.

2. Training

(a) Training team complete and each regiment has three officers from the team in its locations.

(b) Training - Individual training is now proceeding and progress in weapon training within the two infantry regiments is being made, and two demonstration platoons are also being trained. I have seen a 25pdr shoot carried out by the Artillery which was satisfactory but it is obvious that considerable training will be required to achieve greater speed and accuracy. The Engineers training in bridging and mine warfare is under control. The Bailey bridge which was erected at PONTE has been removed and the ford is in use there. It is hoped that the ford will remain passable until the civil road bridge is completed, thus keeping the Bailey bridge available for training. The situation with regard to obtaining more Bailey bridging material from the DMT is not clear, but it is hoped to obtain a further issue over the already in possession. A mines museum has been arranged at CERRETO which is now the location of most of the Engineers. Their move to this location, which is very suitable both from the training and the accommodation point of view, was delayed by lack of transport and also by an outbreak of smallpox in the town.

6779

Signals training is improving, but the administration of the Signals Company is not of a high standard. A great improvement should be made when the Engineer Battalion Commander arrives. I have asked MMIA LO to press for his release during his visit to your HQ.

One of the hospitals was visited recently and found very satisfactory, except for the absence of certain stores. This is being taken up. An inspection by a British medical officer of the whole medical layout of the [illegible] considered very essential [illegible]

Six Storemen RAOC are still awaited from 51 B.L.U.

(d) Combat Gp

As attached state.

2. Training

(a) Training team complete and each regiment has three officers from the team in its locations.

(b) Training - Individual training is now proceeding and progress in weapon training within the two infantry regiments is being made, and two demonstration platoons are also being trained. I have seen a 25pdr shoot carried out by the Artillery which was satisfactory but it is obvious that considerable training will be required to achieve greater speed and accuracy. The Engineers training in bridging and [redacted] warfare is under control. The Bailey bridge which was erected at PONTE has been removed and the ford is in use there. It is hoped that the ford will remain passable until the civil road bridge is completed, thus keeping the Bailey bridge available for training. The situation with regard to obtaining more Bailey bridging material from the D&T is not clear, but it is hoped to obtain a further issue over the [redacted] already in possession. A mines museum has been arranged at CERRETO which is now the location of most of the Engineers. Their move to this location, which is very suitable both from the training and the accommodation point of view, was delayed by lack of transport and also by an outbreak of smallpox in the town.

Signals training is improving, but the administration of the Signals Company is not of a high standard. A great improvement should be made when the Engineer Battalion Commander arrives. I have asked MALA LO to press for his release during his visit to your HQ.

One of the hospitals was visited recently and found very satisfactory, except for the absence of certain stores. This is being taken up. An inspection by a British medical officer of the whole medical layout of the Group is considered very essential and it would be appreciated if this could be arranged.

3. Re-equipping

A meeting was held at AFHQ by Q(AE) last Monday and G I, DAA&QMG, DADOS from 52 and this BLU attended. A more cheerful aspect of the re-equipping programme was obtained and the feed in of new vehicles seams satisfactory and the first batch has been released and will be collected this week. The first batch corresponds to the original maintenance scale of vehicles which should have been received earlier on. The whole W.E. with regard to vehicles and artillery pieces should be received by the end of December. There seams to be a hope that Grade I Battle dress will be released during December but the issue of Grade III which was drawn during the first week of November is still not complete. This is due to the very poor quality of, and sizing difficulties with, Grade III Battle dress. I am of the opinion that it is impossible to equip a Group satisfactorily with this Grade of clothing, even if a low standard is accepted and it is known that the clothing will be replaced with Grade I after the training period. I would therefore advise that any later Groups do not accept Grade III Battle dress unless they can avoid doing so, as the time, transport, and disappointment involved makes it a most unsatisfactory proposition.

..../4. Morale

6279

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1161

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

4. Morale

No change. The ration question is well known to you and I am sure you will take all possible steps to remedy the matter. Re-equipping, which now seems to be much more promising, will have a tremendous effect on raising morale.

5. Accommodation

Great difficulty is being experienced in finding any accommodation for the AA workshops and the only solution at present is for them to remain where they are. The accommodation of further attached personnel, such as REME and Ordnance, creates difficulties as this area is reaching saturation point and the evacuation of civilians is a complicated matter and takes time to produce results.

G. H. L. Marks

Lt. Col.
G.S. 6778

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Weekly Progress Rep[illegible]

52 British Liaison Unit,
G.H.Q.
GCD/2/6.
26th Dec. 1944.

H.Q. 1B. 2 District.

1. Herewith Weekly Progress Report as at 3rd Dec. '44, as per instructions received from AFHQ, Ref. AFHQ/91/22/G(A3) dated 2nd Nov. '44.

Major.
(G. H. GORDON)
DADOS 52 B.L.U.

HX/A.D.

Copy to: (as A.F.H.Q., G.H.Q.
H.Q. Local Forces Sub Command AC (illegible).

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Headquarters.
R.A. No. 3 District,
9 (AA) A.F.H.Q.,
Local Forces Sub Formation No (illegible).

Attached "A" to refer 9/33/Plans
d. 2 Nov. 44.

Monthly Progress Report "Operazione Debattimento" for month ending 3 Nov. 44.

1. ORGANISATION.

Item.	Establishment.	Released.	Strength.
Cable Layer Mechanical.	1	1.	1
Barrows 1 Drum HD 1K 11.	4	4	4
Wireless Stations No. 9. Optbs. stations less batteries.			
Wireless Sets No. 19 T/Ground Optbs. Stns. less batteries.	NIL	2	2
Wireless Stations No. 11 Optbs. Stns. less batteries.	14	14	14
Wireless Sets No. 43.	NIL	57	57
Generators Class D.	NIL	104	104
Charging Sets 1200 watts.	11	12	12
" " 300 watts.	7	8	8
Reception Sets R.107.	57	53	53
Switchboards HJ 10 Line.	4	5	5
Superimposing Units / Transformer.	50	21	21
Coils 101	1	6	6
Fullerphones Mk 1.	23	10	10
Telephones L Mk V.	40	42	42
" Mk 3A	170	150	150
Test Frames 40 Pair.	30	30	30
Batteries secondary portable CW 100/125 Ah	1	1	1
" " " CW 170 Ah	50	240	240
Cable electric D 8 Giggle.	NIL	84	84
" " W 110 "	30 miles	96 miles	96 miles
" " W 110B Twisted.	225 "	225 "	225 "
Apparatus J3 No. 4.	45	45	45
Apparatus J3 No. 3.	24	24	24
Switchboards S & P 40 Line.	14	14	14
Ampere meter 2 3/4-in.	1	1	1
Omnifilot equipment Mk 1.		NIL	3 sets
Gun 25 pdr & Auxiliary Stores.	1	1	1
P.R. 1.A.T.	12	12	12
Guns, machine, Bren, .303-in.	30	30	30

2. MOVING. (Details of Major Mobilisation)

Greatcoats.	6000
Brodes 36-in.	4500
Smoke Helmet	1400
Sheets Ground.	9000
Boots.	9000

6776

Cable Flexible 3 c Siggie.	37		37		37
" " W 110 "	4		4		4
" " W 1108 Twisted.	20		21		21
Apparatus CD No. 4.	1		6		6
Apparatus D No. 3.	25		10		10
Switchboards # & ? 40 Line.	40		42		42
Augers Earth 8 9-in.	170		160		160
Detector Equipment Mk 1.	30		30		30
Gun 25 mr & Ancillary Stores.	1		1		1
Pc. L.A.T.	36		440	-	440
Guns, machine, Bren, -.303-in.	44		84		84
	96	miles	96	miles	96 miles
	226	"	226	"	226 "
	45	"	45	"	45 "
	50		24		24
	14		14		14
	1		1		1
	26				3 sets
	6		1		1
	32		1		1
	170		12		12
	427		30		30

6776

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

Greatcoats.	6000
Braces 9-in.	4500
~~Socks worsted~~	~~14000~~
Boots Ground.	9000
Boots.	9000

3. Other G.1098 stores. (Details of major deficiencies)

~~Not yet authorised to draw~~

Indents have been submitted, and collection of stores is in progress.

C.W. Gordon Major.
(C.W. GORDON),
DADOS 52 Bde.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Report 19/28 Nov

TOP SECRET 165

27/32

See 6/12

Liaison Officer
Military Mission Italian
Army
c/o HQ MANTOVA GP
G 2
30 Nov 44

To: Military Mission Italian Army
ROME

Infm: 34 BLU

Herewith my report for period 19/28 Nov. Part I General, Part II PICENO Combat GP.

PART I GENERAL

1. Liaison log

19 - 21 Nov	ROME
22	Arrived SAN GIORGIO. Contacted 00 30 BLU
23	Contacted Training Team of FRIULI GP and Lt. Col. SABRE. To Guards IRTD to fire loan Camp Cmdt for 34 BLU.
24	Arrived BARI.
25	Arrived MARTINA FRANCA. Contacted GOC and C ofs PICENO GP. Inspected following units of PICENO GP. HQ 1/335 Inf Regt. HQ, 2 and 6 Gps/152 Arty Regt.
26	as above. 1, 3 and 5 Gps/152 Arty Regt. 2/335 Inf Regt HQ, Mortar Coy, 11 A/Tk Coy/336 Inf Regt.
27	To TARANTO where vehicle undergoing major repairs at 315 Port whips Coy REME
28	Ditto. Left for ROSERNA 2130 hrs

6775

noted

2. MANTOVA and PICENO Units in SAN GIORGIO Area at 22 Nov

Lt. Col. SABRE and billeting party, courses personnel etc.	118 Approx strength
4 Artieri Coy MANTOVA	150 " "
2/119 Inf Regt "	480 " "
318 Squadra Fanetbieri MANTOVA	33
156 Artieri Coy PICENO	" "

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

19 - 21 Nov	[illegible]
22	Arrived SAN GIORGIO. Contacted GOC 5C BLU
23	Contacted Training Team of FRIULI GP and Lt. Col. SARRE. To Guards IRTD to fire loan Camp Cmdt for 54 BLU.
24	Arrived BARI.
25	Arrived MARTINA FRANCA. Contacted GOC and C ofs PICENO GP. Inspected following units of PICENO GP. HQ 1/335 Inf Regt. HQ, 2 and 6 Gps/152 Arty Regt.
26	as above. 1, 3 and 5 Gps/152 Arty Regt. 2/335 Inf Regt HQ, Mortar Coy, 11 A/Tk Coy/336 Inf Regt.
27	To TARANTO where vehicle undergoing major repairs at 315 Port whips Coy REME
28	Ditto. Left for COSENZA 2130 hrs

6775

Noted

2. MANTOVA and PICENO Units in SAN GIORGIO Area at 22 Nov

Lt. Col. SARRE and billeting party, courses personnel etc.	116	Approx strength
4 Artieri Coy MANTOVA	150	" "
2/119 Inf Regt "	460	" "
318 Squadra Panettieri MANTOVA	33	
152 Artieri Coy PICENO	132	" "
162 " " "	130	" "
1 Coy 152 MG Bn. "	110	" "
1/336 Inf Regt "	410	" "
69 Coy Telegrafisti. To be disbanded	180	" "
	1723	Total

In addition there is a Comando Tappa (Transit Camp) at BENEVENTO u/c Lt. Col. RANC. This unit, capable of transiting 200 all ranks, which has some 6 vehicles and 75 personnel on its establishment, has been operating for the FRIULI and now presumably passes temporarily to u/c MANTOVA

Yes

3. Troops of the MANTOVA and PICENO in the SAN GIORGIO area were in bad conditions for tentage and clothing and also suffered from being without a formation HQ directly interested in them.

This will be put right when MANTOVA GP HQ starts functioning in the training area.

O.K.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

PART II PICENO GP

4. Order of Battle and strength statement is attached as appendix A. Points to note are that both gunners and sappers are well off for personnel and that there is a small availability of workshops personnel. Also there are a certain number of animals still to be got rid of and that the number of vehicles on strength is considerably lower than that of the MANTOVA.

How many - tell Q.

5. Deficiency of Specialists is attached as Appendix B. The lack of drivers and driver mechanics particularly and of all specialists generally is greater than was the case with the MANTOVA.

6. Leave, sick, absent etc. are shown in Appendix C. I was informed that 10% of the PICENO were on leave. Yet the figures 19 offs. and 211 OR's shown as on leave in columns 4 and 5 of App C are below 5% of their "Forza effettiva". I was also told by the C of S PICENO that their strength was around the 5000 mark. The "Forza effettiva" shown in column 7 App A shows 465 offs and 6326 OR's and 6326 OR's. When I next visit the GP I will find out the reason for these discrepencies, in the meantime I received the general impression as a result of visiting some of the PICENO units that the GP as a whole is very considerably under strength.

Agreed

7. Clothing and Boots conditions are about the same as those existing for the MANTOVA, and already outlined by me in previous reports, with the exception that a greater percentage are dressed in "grigio verde" and more men have Italian overcoats.

In order to begin training CC of S PICENO GP considers the following issues are essential:

Boots	3800
B/D complete	3000
Overcoats	3200
Side caps (Italian)	4800

6774

Any Head is aching

8. Tentage is said to be in poor condition for most of the GP. Before moving the GP into the field therefore it will be necessary to ascertain what their tentage requirements from British stocks amount to.

9. Readiness to Move. I have the impression that the PICENO is not nearly as prepared to move to its training area as was the MANTOVA. As much notice as possible should be given them and I consider two weeks

OK

7 App A shows 469 offs and 6326 OR's and 6326 OR's. When I next visit the GP I will find out the reason for these discrepancies, in the meantime I received the general impression as a result of visiting some of the PICENO units that the GP as a whole is very considerably under strength.

Agreed

7. Clothing and Boots conditions are about the same as those existing for the MANTOVA, and already outlined by me in previous reports, with the exception that a greater percentage are dressed in "grigio verde" and more men have Italian overcoats.

In order to begin training CO of 8 PICENO GP considers the following issues are essential:

Boots	3800
B/D complete	3800
Overcoats	3200
Side caps (Italian)	1900

6774

Mey Head is aching

8. Tentage is said to be in poor condition for most of the GP. Before moving the GP into the field therefore it will be necessary to ascertain what their tentage requirements from British stocks amount to.

9. Readiness to Move. I have the impression that the PICENO is not nearly as prepared to move to its training area as was the MANTOVA. As much notice as possible should be given them and I consider two weeks a minimum.

OK

10. Command and Discipline. My inspection of PICENO units was a very brief one and only about a half of the GP was seen.

I believe that for various reasons outlined in para 14 all units except the gunners are some way behind the MANTOVA in command, discipline and morale. The PICENO will require a very severe shaking up before it can begin its training.

YES. they will get it

11. Elements from CIL. The PICENO has received a certain number of CIL cast offs, both officers and men, from the LEGNANO and FOLGORE. These men constitute a restless minority who are not pleased to be assigned to the PICENO and whom the PICENO are not anxious to have. No doubt they will settle down when training begins but at the moment there is evidence of discontent on both sides.

We have to make the best of everyone.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

12. Officer Problem. The GOC PICENO was very frank about his officer problem and stated that he was still eliminating officers, who for various reasons had no wish to form part of a combat GP. Many of his companies still had no company commanders, officers assigned to the GP by the Ministero didn't turn up; these and other difficulties relating to officers were, General PRALORMO stated, holding up the reorganization of the GP. From my own observation I consider that the officers I saw of the GP, again with the exception of the gunners, were inferior in quality to these of the MANTOVA. I will take up with War Trim.

13. Reorganization of GP according to New Establishment was proceeding slowly but I thought that the knowledge of the subject amongst the officers left a good deal to be desired.

14. Conclusions GOC PICENO GP General PRALORMO (see Appendix D for list of CO's) is charming man, of the old school of Italian Cavalry officers, who seems to have all the right ideas and who continually stressed the importance of having good officers and especially good Company Commanders.

He gained a Medaglia d'Oro in this war (the Italian equivalent of the V C) and it I imagine a first rate field commander. But the GP as a whole lacks life and I did not get the impression from my very brief stay that it was in as good order as, the MANTOVA.

Command seemed sloppy, discipline poor, and morale lower than it should have been.

The officers seemed to lack spirit, all this may be due to the fact that it has always been considerably under strength, that its late GOC was reputedly not very energetic, that it has been less centralised even than the MANTOVA., and demoralized recently by the threat of breaking it up to do police work in Italy and the Islands. 6773 I may be wrong in my estimate from, I repeat, my very brief visit, I came away with the impression that it needs a very considerable shaking up, reorganization, and tightening of discipline before it can go into the field ready for training. Whether General PRALORMO can be sufficiently brutal and unpleasant to bring about this transformation, I don't know. He is liked, admired and respected by his officers, which is perhaps a poor recommendation. I will take up with Warrin

I am inclined to think that, in view of the difficulties of finding replacements for the Groups, which already exists and which is likely to be more acute later on, the wisest course to be followed for the PICENO is that already recommended by MMIA ie: that it should be maintained as a "Replacement Group" and trained, clothed and equipped up to [illegible] standard of the other GPs for this purpose.

NO. 15

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

officers, who seems to have all the right ideas and who personally stressed the importance of having good officers and especially good Company Commanders.

He gained a Medaglia d'Oro in this war (the Italian equivalent of the V C) and is I imagine a first rate field commander. But the GP as a whole lacks life and I did not get the impression from my very brief stay that it was in as good order as, the MANTOVA.

Command seemed sloppy, discipline poor, and morale lower than it should have been.

The Officers seemed to lack spirit, all this may be due to the fact that it has always been considerably under strength, that its late CCO was reputedly not very energetic, that it has been less centralised even than the MANTOVA., and demoralized recently by the threat of breaking it up to do police work in Italy and the Islands. At any rate from, I repeat, my very brief visit, I came away with the impression that it needs a very considerable shaking up, reorganisation, and tightening of discipline before it can go into the field ready for training. Whether General PRALORMO can be sufficiently brutal and unpleasant to bring about this transformation, I don't know. He is liked, admired and respected by his officers, which is perhaps a poor recommendation. I will take up with Warwick

I am inclined to think that, in view of the difficulties of finding replacements for the Groups, which already exists and which is likely to be more acute later on, the wisest course to be followed for the PICENO is that already recommended by MMIA ie: that it should be maintained as a "Replacement Group" and trained, clothed and equipped up to the full standard of the other GPs for this purpose.

To this end it would probably be necessary to alter its war establishment slightly but this should present no difficulty. In the meantime if the PICENO is to be kept as a combat GP I make the following recommendations:

(i) Clothing and boots be earmarked as an immediate issue from British stocks on arrival at the training area. See para 7. Also one British blanket per man for the Organic strength of the GP.

(ii) The Ministry of War be asked what the GP requirements for tentage replacements or fresh issues are.

(iii) The PICENO animals be passed to COMILIT PUGLIE -CAMPANIA.

(iv) That the Ministero be informed that General PRALERMO's deficiency of Company Commanders must be remedied before the GP moves.

(v) That the PICENO units still in the SAN GIORGIO area (see para 2) be moved to the GP training area as soon as possible.

(vi) That a minimum of 2 weeks warning to move be given the PICENO.

NO. It is to be a combat Group Speak to Hq

H.A.C. Howard

LT. COL. G S O 1 (L)
MMIA LO MANTOVA GP

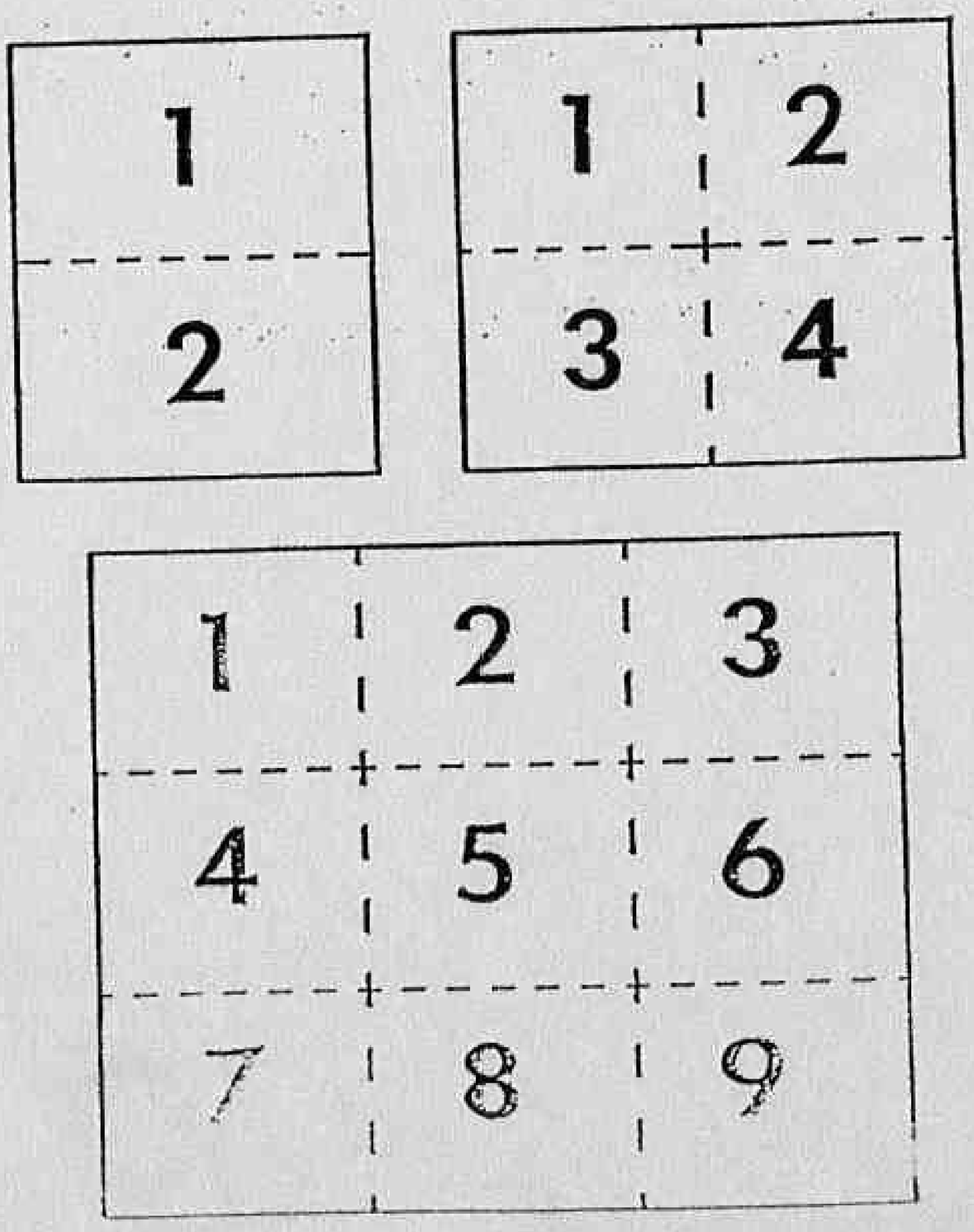
6773

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SEGRETO

COMANDO GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "P IC
= Sezione Op. Inf. e Servizi =

SITUAZIONE DELLA FORZA ALLA DATA 24 NOVEMBRE 1944.-

REPARTO	Se costituito o in corso di costituzione	Dislocazione attuale	ORGANICO		FORZA EFFETTIVA		DEFICIENZE ED ESUBERANZE			
			Ufficiali	Sottuff.li e truppa	Ufficiali	Sottuff.li e truppa	UFFICIALI		SOTTUFFICIALI E TRUPPA	
							Deficienza	Esuberanza	Deficienza	Esuberanza
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Com. Gruppo e Q.G.	già cost.	Martina Franca	30	115	30	115	=	=	=	=
235° rgt. ftr.										
Comando e C.C.R.	già costituiti	Loccorotondo	15	101	22	198	=	7	=	97
Cp.M. da 76		"	3	95	3	79	=	=	16	=
Cp. cannoni		"	6	162	6	83	=	=	79	=
I° Btg.		Martina Franca	31	742	36	453	=	5	289	=
II° Btg.		Loccorotondo	31	742	40	414	=	9	328	=
III° Btg.		Massafra	31	742	37	407	=	6	335	=
			117	2584	144	1634	=	27	1047	97
336° rgt. ftr.										
Comando e C.C.R.	già costituiti	Fasano	15	101	21	149	=	6	=	48
Cp.M. da 76		Fasano	3	95	4	103	=	1	=	8
Cp. cannoni		Fasano	6	162	6	63	=	=	99	=
I° Btg.		Castello(Benevento)	31	742	39	766	=	8	=	24
II° Btg.		Parletta (Taranto) 52 CR	31	742	29	596	2	=	146	=
III° Btg.		Crispiano	31	742	36	415	=	5	327	=
			117	2584	135	2092	2	20	572	80
152° rgt. art.										
C/do e Rep. C. Rgt.	già costituiti	Martina Fr.	11	74	20	226	=	9	=	152
I Gr. 25 Libbre		Noci	15	239	14	268	1	=	=	29
II " " "		Alberobello	15	239	15	149	=	=	90	=
III " " "		Ceglie Mess.	15	239	15	154	=	=	85	=
IV " " "		Pied. d'Alife	15	239	14	248	1	=	=	9
V " 17 "		Noci	9	172	8	141	1	=	31	=
VI " 40 "		Ciaternino	13	231	13	169	=	=	62	=
152° Rt. m. Gando			93	1433	99	1355	3	9	268	190

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Appendix A.

COMANDO GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "PICENO"
= Sezione Op. Inf. e Servizi =

FORZA ALLA DATA 24 NOVEMBRE 1944.-

GO	FORZA EFFETTIVA		DEFICIENZE ED ESUBERANZE								DA PORTARE AL SEGUITO							
uf up	Uffi-cia-li	Sottuf.li e truppa	UFFICIALI		SOTTUFFICIALI E TRUPPA		UFFICIALI		SOTT.LI E TRUPPA		Qua-dru-pedi	Car-reg-gio	Trat-to-ri	Auto-car-ri	Auto-car. L/39	Moto-cicli	Auto-vet-ture
			Defi-cien-za	Esube-ran-za	Defi-cien-za	Esube-ran-za	Totali										
							Defi-cien-za	Esube-ran-za	Defi-cien-za	Esube-ran-za							
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
5	30	115	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	1	10	=	3	4
	22	198	=	7	=	97											
5	3	79	=	=	16	=											
2	6	83	=	=	79	=											
2	36	453	=	5	289	=											
2	40	414	=	9	328	=											
2	37	407	=	6	335	=											
4	144	1634	=	27	1047	97	=	27	950	=	74	=	=	=	6	2	1
1	21	149	=	6	=	48											
5	4	103	=	1	=	8											
2	6	63	=	=	99	=											
2	39	766	=	8	=	24											
2	29	596	2	=	146	=											
2	36	415	=	5	327	=											
4	135	2092	2	20	572	80	=	18	492	=	113	=	=	=	6	2	1
4	20	226	=	9	=	152											
3	14	268	1	=	=	29											
3	15	149	=	=	90	=											
9	15	154	=	=	85	=											
9	14	248	1	=	=	9											
2	8	141	1	=	31	=											
1	13	169	=	=	62	=											
3	99	1355	3	9	208	190	=	6	78	=	118	=	=	14	=	7	1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

152° rgt. art.									
C/do e Rep. C. Rgt.		Martina Fr.	11	74	20	226	=	9	=	152
I Gr. 25 libbre	già	Noci	15	239	14	268	1	=	=	29
II " " "		Alberobello	15	239	15	149	=	=	90	=
III" " "	costituiti	Ceglie Mess.	15	239	15	154	=	=	85	=
IV " " "		Pied. d'Alisi	15	239	14	248	1	=	=	9
V " 77 "		Noci	9	172	8	141	1	=	31	=
VI " 40 "		Cisternino	13	231	13	169	=	=	62	=
			93	1433	99	1355	3	9	288	190
152° Btg. m. Genio										
Comando		Martina Fr.	6	16	6	16	=	=	=	=
152^ Cp. artieri	già	S. Giorgio Sanni	6	229	5	186	1	=	43	=
162^ Cp. artieri(1)	costituite	" " "	6	229	=	=	=	=	=	=
Cp. teleradio		Martina Fr.	7	327	6	391	1	=	=	64
			25	801	17	593	2	=	43	64
Rep. Traup. e Rif.	già cost.	Locorotondo	13	294	14	180	=	1	114	=
152^ Sez. Sanità	" "	Locorotondo	14	237	9	121	5	=	116	=
83° Osp. da Campo	" "	Cisternino	6	44	6	39	=	=	5	=
91° Osp. da Campo	" "	Cisternino	6	44	6	53	=	=	=	9
Dep. mobile	corso cost.	-	4	69						
155^ Sez. CC. RR.	già cost.	Martina Fr.	1	50	1	48	=	=	2	=
198^ Sez. CC. RR.	" "	Martina Fr.	1	50	1	47	=	=	3	=
Off. mob. C/do Gr.	corso cost.	Martina-Fr.	6	168	2	24	4	=	144	=
Off. mob. legg. 235°f.	già	Locorotondo	=	12	=	7	=	=	5	=
Off. mob. legg. 336°f.		Fasano	=	12	=	3	=	=	9	=
Off. mob. legg. 152°a.	costituite	Martina Fr.	=	24	=	3	=	=	21	=
" " "bt/. Genio		Martina Fr.	=	24	=	3	=	=	21	=
Pl. off. Rp. Tr. e Rif.	corso cost.	Locorotondo	1	39	1	9	=	=	30	=
		TOTALE GENERALE...	438	3564	465	6326	16	57	2400	440

Deficienze complessive ....

6791
3823
265
3089

3791
262
3519
3089
430

NOTE

(1)- Mancano i dati relativi alla 162^ Cp. Artieri, di recente immissione al Btg. Gen

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

74	20	225	=	9	=	152												
89	14	268	1	=	=	29												
89	15	149	=	=	90	=												
89	15	154	=	=	85	=												
89	14	248	1	=	=	9												
72	8	141	1	=	31	=												
81	13	169	=	=	62	=												
33	99	1355	3	9	2[illegible]8	190	=	6	78	=	118	=	=	14	=	7	1	
16	6	16	=	=	=	=												
29	5	186	1	=	43	=												
29	=	=	=	=	=	=												
27	6	391	1	=	=	64												
01	17	593	2	=	43	64	2	=	=	21	=	=	=	1	=	2	=	
94	14	180	=	1	114	=	=	1	114	=	=	=	=	1	=	=	=	
37	9	121	5	=	116	=	=	=	116	=	12	=	=	=	=	=	=	
44	6	39	=	=	5	=	=	=	5	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
44	6	53	=	=	=	9	=	=	=	9	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
69																		
50	1	48	=	=	2	=	=	=	2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
50	1	47	=	=	3	=	=	=	3	=	=	=	=	1	=	4	=	
68	2	24	4	=	144	=	4	=	144	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
12	=	7	=	=	5	=	=	=	5	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
12	=	3	=	=	9	=	=	=	9	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
24	=	3	=	=	21	=	=	=	21	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
24	=	3	=	=	21	=	=	=	21	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
39	1	9	=	=	30	=	=	=	30	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	
84	465	6326	16	57	2[illegible]0	440	6	32	1990	30	317	=	1	87	12	20	7	

Deficienze complessive 46 1960

6791
3791
262
3519
089
430

tieri, di recente immissione al Btg. Genio, dislocata a S. Giorgio del Sannio.-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SEGRETO

COMANDO GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "PICENO"
Sezione Op. Inf. e Servizi

SPECCHIO SPECIALIZZATI IN DEFICIENZA AI REPARTI DEL GRUPPO DI CO

DATA DEL 24/11/1944

DENOMINAZIONE SPECIALIZZAZIONE	Q. G.	235° Rgt. Ftr.	336° Rgt. Ftr.(1)	152° Rgt. Artigl.	152° Btg. Genio (2)	Rep. Trasp. e Rif.	152ª Sez. Sanità - 83° e 91° Osp. da Camp.
SOTTUFFICIALI							
Armaioli	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Artificieri	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Operai	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Meccanici motoristi	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Elettricisti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRADUATI E TRUPPA							
Motociclisti	6	72	74	28	44	17	1
Automobilisti	4	195	213	185	113	148	55
Meccanici automobilisti	-	14	10	-	10	-	-
Armaioli	-	29	31	-	-	-	-
Artificieri	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Operai	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Meccanici	-	6	5	-	-	20	6
Elettricisti	-	2	2	-	10	-	1
Radio montatori	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
Apparecchiatori telefonici	+	-	-	-	2	-	-
Marconisti	+	78	73	144	10	-	-
Muratori e cementisti	-	-	-	-	21	-	-
Falegnami e carpentieri	-	-	-	-	43	-	-
Fabbri	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Meccanici comuni	-	-	-	-	14	-	-

1177

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Appendix B.

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "PICENO"
Sezione Op. Inf. e Servizi

CONSISTENZA AI REPARTI DEL GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "PICENO" ALLA DATA DEL 24/11/1944

336° Rgt. Ftr.(1)	152° Rgt. Artigl.	152° Btg. Genio (2)	Rep. Trasp. e Rif.	152^Sez. Sanità - 83° e 91° Ospe. da Camp.	Deposito Mobile	155^ e 198^ Sezione CC.RR.	Officina Mobile per Gruppo Combatt.	Officine mobili legg. per rgt. ftr., art. e btg. genio	Plotone officina per Reparto Tr. e Riforn.	TOTALE
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 (3)	6 (4)	-	16
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
74	28	44	17	1	5	13	6	-	1	250
213	185	113	148	55	38	9	2	-	6	960
10	-	10	-	-	3	-	29	6	2	70
31	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	64
-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
5	-	-	20	6	-	-	2	-	-	39
2	-	10	-	1	2	-	9	6	3	35
-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
73	144	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	305
-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
-	-	43	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	47
-	-	9	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	13
-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Radio montatori.....	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
Ap-arecchiatori telefonici....	+	-	-	-	2	-	-
Marconisti.....	+	78	73	144	10	-	-
Muratori e cementisti.....	-	-	-	-	21	-	-
Falegnami e car-entieri.....	-	-	-	-	43	-	-
Fabbri.....	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Meccanici -om-isti.....	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Motoristi.....	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Tubisti.....	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Addetti servizi idrici.....	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Mascheratori.....	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Barcaioli.....	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Meccanici per ri-araz.autoveic.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrozzieri.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Verniciatori.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tornitori.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saldatori.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montatori.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laminatori.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Addetti alle telecomunicazioni	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aggiustatori.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operai strumenti precisione...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meccanici ri-arazioni Radio...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALE GENERALE.....	10	397	409	380	317	185	63

(1) - Suscettibili di diminuzione mancando i dati degli specializzati esistenti al To
(2) - Mancano i dati relativi alla 162ª co. artieri di recente immissione al btg.genio.
(3) - Di cui: 7 marescialli.-
(4) - Marescialli cani.-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

–	–	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13
–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
73	144	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	305
–	–	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	21
–	–	43	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	47
–	–	9	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	13
–	–	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14
–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10
–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	32	–	–	32
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	2
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	3
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	6	–	9
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	2	14
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	4
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	3
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
409	380	317	185	63	48	9	115	42	14	1989

ati degli specializzati esistenti al 7° btg. dislocato a Benevento.-
ieri di recente immissione al btg.genio, dislocata a S.Giorgio del Sannio.-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SEGRETO

COMANDO GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "PIC
Sezione Op.Inf.e Servizi

FORZA ASSENTE DEI REPARTI DEL GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO " PIGNO " ALLA DATA DEL

REPARTO	RICOVERATI IN OSPEDALE		IN LICENZA		ASSENTI ARBIT	
	UFFICIALI	SOTTUFF. E TRUPPA	UFFICIALI	SOTTUFF. E TRUPPA	UFFICIALI	SOT
1	2	3	4	5	6	
COMANDO GRUPPO E QUART.GENER	-	4	-	8	-	
235° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA						
Comando e cp.c/do rgt.....	-	2	-	4	-	
Cp.mortai da 75.....	-	2	-	1	-	
Cp.cannoni.....	-	-	-	-	-	
I° Battaglione.....	-	14	1	6	-	
II° Battaglione.....	1	11	4	13	-	
III° Battaglione.....	-	21	2	34	-	
336° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA						
Comando e cp.c/do rgt.....	2	6	-	1	-	
Cp.mortai da 75.....	-	6	1	3	-	
Cp.cannoni.....	+	1	1	4	-	
I° Battaglione.....	-	4	-	13	-	
II° Battaglione.....	-	31	-	5	-	
III° Battaglione.....	1	10	3	19	-	
152° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA						
Reparto Comando.....	-	2	1	3	-	
I° Gruppo.....	1	3	-	16	-	
II° Gruppo.....	-	2	-	5	-	
III° Gruppo.....	-	5	-	3	-	
IV°Gruppo.....(1).....						
V° Gruppo.....	-	2	-	10	-	
VI° Gruppo.....	-	2	-	9	-	
152° BTG.MISTO GENIO						
Comando btg.....	-	-	-	-	-	
152^ Cp.Artieri..... (2).....						
162^ Cp.Artieri.....						
Cp.teleradio.....	1	18	4	37	-	
REP.TRASP.E RIFORNIMENTI...	-	3	-	10	-	
152^ SEZIONE SANITA!.....	-	2	-	4	-	
83° OSPEDALE DA CAMPO.....	-	-	1	1	-	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Appendix C.

COMANDO GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "PICENO"
Sezione Op.Inf.e Servizi

COMBATTIMENTO " PICENO " ALLA DATA DEL 24 NOVEMBRE 1944.-
AWOL.

LE	IN LICENZA		ASSENTI ARBITRARI		AGGREGATI OD IN SUSSISTENZA PRESSO ALTRI REPARTI O CORPI		ACCREGATI OD IN SUSSISTENZA DI ALTRI REPARTI O CORPI	
	UFFICIALI	SOTTUFF. E TRUPPA	UFFICIALI	SOTTUFF. E TRUPPA	UFFICIALI	SOTTUFF. E TRUPPA	UFFICIALI	SOTTUFF. E TRUPPA
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	-	8	-	-	5	12	5	34
	-	4	-	-	2	7	-	1
	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
	-	6	-	-	2	8	-	25
	1	13	-	-	1	26	-	6
	4	34	-	-	1	10	-	5
	-	1	-	-	3	4	-	30
	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
	1	4	-	-	2	8	-	-
	-	13	-	1	-	18	-	2
	-	5	-	1	5	17	-	-
	3	19	-	-		10		
	1	3	-	-	2	30	-	33
	-	16	-	-	1	9	-	8
	-	5	-	-	2	10	-	26
	-	3	-	-	2	11	-	-
	-	10	-	-	1	17	-	-
	-	9	-	-	2	15	1	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	37	-	7	3	78	-	-
	-	10	-	3	-	5	-	-
	-	4	-	3	-	4	-	2
	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	1
		-				-		-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

I° Gruppo.....	1	3	-	16	-
II° Gruppo.....	-	2	-	5	-
III° Gruppo.....	-	5	-	3	-
IV°Gruppo.....(1).....					
V° Gruppo.....	-	2	-	10	-
VI° Gruppo.....	-	2	-	9	-
152° BTG.MISTO GENIO					
Comando btg.....	-	-	-	-	-
152^ Cp.Artieri.. 162^ Cp.Artieri..}.(2).....					
Cp.teleradio.....	1	18	4	37	-
REP.TRASP.E RIFORNIMENTI...	-	3	-	10	-
152^ SEZIONE SANITA!.....	-	2	-	4	-
83° OSPEDALE DA CAMPO.....	-	-	1	1	-
91° OSPEDALE DA CAMPO.....	-	1	-	1	-
155^ SEZIONE CC. RR.....	-	-	-	1	-
198^ SEZIONE CC.RR.....	-	-	-	-	-
OFF.MOBILE PER C/DO GRUPPO.	-	-	-	-	-
OFF.MOBILE LEGG.PER 235°FTR.	-	-	-	-	-
OFF.MOBILE LEGG.PER 336°FTR.	-	-	-	-	-
OFF.MOB.PER 152° ART. N.2..	-	-	-	-	-
OFF.MOB.PER 152°GENIO N.2..	-	-	-	-	-
PL.OFFICINA PER REP.TRASPORTI E RIFORNIMENTI	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALI.....	6	152	18	211	-

Si detraggono le colonne 10 e 11.....

N O T E

(1)- Mancano i dati relativi a tale gruppo dislocato a Piedimonte d'Alife.-

(2)- Mancano i dati relativi alle due cp.artieri,dislocate a S.Giorgio del Sannio.-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

–	[illegible]	–	–	2	30	–	33
–	16	–	–	1	9	–	8
–	5	–	–	2	10	–	26
–	3	–	–	2	11	–	–
–	10	–	–	1	17	–	–
–	9	–	–	2	15	1	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
4	37	–	7	3	78	–	–
–	10	–	3	–	5	–	–
–	4	–	3	–	4	–	2
1	1	–	–	–	4	–	1
–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	1	–	–	–	2	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
18	211	–	18	34	309	1	173

...i detraggono le colonne 10 e 11..............	6	173
	28	136

...dislocato a Piedimonte d'Alife.-

...eri, dislocate a S.Giorgio del Sannio.- TOTALE FORZA ASSENTE: Ufficiali . . . . . n° 52
Sott.li e truppa . " 517

COMANDO GRUPPO COMBATTIMENTO " PICENO

Sezione Op.Inf.e Servizi

Appendix D.

QUADRI SUPERIORI DEL GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO " P I C E N O "

Carica ricoperta	Grado	Arma	Cognome e nome		classe
Comandante del Gruppo	Gen.Div.	Cav.	BERAUDO DI PRALORMO	Emanuele	57.1887
Vice Com/te del Gruppo	Gen.Brig.	Ftr.	CANISTRA'	Domenico	56.1888
Capo di Stato Maggiore	Ten.Col.	Art.	INGHILLERI	Salvatore	1901
Com/te 235° rgt.ftr.	Colonn.	Ftr.	BORELLO	Ferdinando	55.1889
Com/te I Btg.235° ftr.	Maggiore	Ftr.	CIAMPA	Simone	45.1899
Com/te II Btg.235°ftr.	Maggiore	Ftr.	VITA	Biagio	1901
Com/te III Btg.235°ftr.	Maggiore	Ftr.gra	D'ACCINNI	Federico	1908
Com/te 336° rgt.ftr.	Colonn.	Ftr.	FANIZZA	Ruggero	1896
Com/te I Btg.336° ftr.	Ten.Col.	Ftr.	ALI'	Alberto	1895
Com/te II Btg.336°ftr.	Ten.Col.	Ftr.	MASELLI	Giovanni	1893
Com/te III Btg.336°ftr.	Ten.Col.	Ftr.	VERDOJA	Cesare	1897
Com/te 152° rgt. art.	Colonn.	Art.	NASTA	Pasquale	1893
Com/te I Gr. 152° art.	Magg.	Art.	MUSY	Umberto	1912
Com/te II Gr.152° art.	Magg.	Art.	ROSSI	Giampaolo	1909
Com/te III Gr.152°art.	Magg.	Art.	MIRRA	Guglielmo	1910
Com/te IV Gr.152° art.	Magg.	Art.	ORTOLEVA	Salvatore	1907
Com/te V Gr. 152° art.	Magg.	Art.	MARCHESANI	Mario	1909
Com/te VI Gr.152° art.	Magg.	Art.	CORRADO	Clemente	1904
Com/te 152°btg.Genio	Ten.Col.	Genio	COLANGELO	Giuseppe	1899
Com/te inter. Reparto Trasporti e Rifornimenti	Capit.	Aut.	FERRI	Egidio	1905

6771

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Com/te I Btg.235° ftr.	Maggiore	Ftr.	CIAMPA	Simone	1899
Com/te II Btg.235°ftr.	Maggiore	Ftr.	VITA	Biagio	1901
Com/te III Btg.235°ftr.	Maggiore	Ftr.gra	D'ACCINNI	Federico	1908
Com/te 336° rgt.ftr.	Colonn.	Ftr.	FANIZZA	Ruggero	1896
Com/te I Btg.336° ftr.	Ten.Col.	Ftr.	ALI'	Alberto	1895
Com/te II Btg.336°ftr.	Ten.Col.	Ftr.	MASELLI	Giovanni	1893
Com/te III Btg.336°ftr.	Ten.Col.	Ftr.	VERDOJA	Cesare	1897
Com/te 152° rgt. art.	Colonn.	Art.	NASTA	Pasquale	1893
Com/te I Gr. 152° art.	Magg.	Art.	MUSY	Umberto	1912
Com/te II Gr.152° art.	Magg.	Art.	ROSSI	Giampaolo	1909
Com/te III Gr.152°art.	Magg.	Art.	MIRRA	Guglielmo	1910
Com/te IV Gr.152° art.	Magg.	Art.	ORTOLEVA	Salvatore	1907
Com/te V Gr. 152° art.	Magg.	Art.	MARCHESANI	Mario	1909
Com/te VI Gr.152° art.	Magg.	Art.	CORRADO	Clemente	1904
Com/te 152°btg.Genio	Ten.Col.	Genio	COLANGELO	Giuseppe	1899
Com/te inter. Reparto Trasporti e Rifornimenti	Capit.	Aut.	FERRI	Egidio	1905

677P

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET. 164

G1
8/32.

8/Sec.
5/12

PROGRESS REPORT TRAINING

WEEK ENDED SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 44.

To: M.M.I.A., ROME.
D.M.T., NAPLES.

1. No organised training has been possible during this period as units commenced to arrive 28 Nov and have been settling in under conditions of much rain, poor clothing and scanty transport.

2. CARRIER SCHOOL.

A course for instructors in D & M consisting of 24 Officers and ORs chosen from Carrier and Mortar Pls and the M.M.G. Coy assemble today and will terminate 22 Dec.

? What is this

3. INF WEAPONS TRAINING SCHOOL.

70 Rifles, 12 Brens, 12 TSMGs and 6 Piats have been drawn for use by this School which is to be established at ALTAVILLA with 16 Officers and 22 NCO instructors. The first courses for:

(a) Infantry Weapons
(b) 3" Mortar, will assemble with 60 Officers and 100 OR students on 8 Dec. Duration 3 weeks.

6770

4. ENGINEER Bn MANTOVA Gp (plus 3 Fd Pk Coy) and ENG. Bn PICENO Gp (less Bn HQ) are now in the Group concentration and trg area. To reorganize to new W.Es, demands for necessary rfts are being put through Italian channels. There is a large deficiency in DRIVERS I/C.

correct.

A new C.O. for ENG. Bn, MANTOVA Gp, Major FENOGLIO, is to take place of present C.O., Major MANTERO. It is important that the new C.O. should take over Bn as soon as possible, so that he will be well in the picture.

Ask SHAEF

TRAINING. MANTOVA and PICENO Gp engineers will use same trg sites as FRIULI and CREMONA respectively. Trg equipment has been taken over; that for the MANTOVA is fairly complete, but that for the PICENO has many deficiencies.

Italian instructors are very few for both Bns. Exact position not yet known, but it will be impossible to commence trg satisfactorily until more Italian instructors are available.

Indent.

Ask. DMT.

5. ARTILLERY are at present doing Marching Drill and Map Reading, for lack of other equipment.

6. DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

70 Rifles, 12 Brens, 12 SMGs [illegible] Pistols have been made for use by this School which is to be established at ALTAVILLA with 16 Officers and 22 NCO instructors. The first courses for:

(a) Infantry Weapons
(b) 3" Mortar, will assemble with 60 Officers and 100 OR students on 9 Dec. Duration 3 weeks.

6770

4. ENGINEER Bn MANTOVA Gp (plus 3 Fd Pk Coy) and ENG. Bn PICENO Gp (less Bn HQ) are now in the Group concentration and trg area. To reorganize to new W.Es, demands for necessary rfts are being put through Italian channels. There is a large deficiency in DRIVERS I/C.

A new C.O. for ENG. Bn, MANTOVA Gp, Major PENOGLIO, is to take place of present C.O., Major MANTERO. It is important that the new C.O. should take over Bn as soon as possible, so that he will be well in the picture.

TRAINING. MANTOVA and PICENO Gp engineers will use same trg sites as FRIULI and CREMONA respectively. Trg equipment has been taken over; that for the MANTOVA is fairly complete, but that for the PICENO has many deficiencies.

Italian instructors are very few for both Bns. Exact position not yet known, but it will be impossible to commence trg satisfactorily until more Italian instructors are available.

5. ARTILLERY are at present doing Marching Drill and Map Reading, for lack of other equipment.

6. DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE.

Further courses are urgently needed before units of all arms receive their vehicles.

We hope to provide 400 licenced drivers in January-February.

7. E.M.E.

Much could be done within the Division to produce VEH MECHS and DVR MECHS if a REME Workshops could be attached; especially at this stage when British Wksps personnel would not be overloaded with work and so could be used for instructional purposes.

8. Troops of all arms are seriously in need of boots and clothing before training can take effect. Releases have been obtained for drawing 7 Dec.

In the field.
3 Dec'44.

E.R. Chadwick. Heading
Major for Lt.Col. G.S.
54 B.L.U.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

162

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Trg of FOLGORE Combat Gp as at 24 Nov 44.

SECRET

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ, CMF

Tel: 10610

MTT/53/12/MP1

29 Nov 44.

HQ AAI

Copy to: HQ MMIA
G-3 Org (Foreign), AFHQ

1. General Progress - Infantry

(a) With the equipping of all men with boots and most of them with B.D. (some are still outstanding in the latter owing to u/s B.D. or wrong sizes having been issued in the first place), general trg has started. The emphasis at present is on weapon trg and route marching; the former because it is the basis of any further infantry trg and the latter because boots must be broken in and feet hardened. As a result of the unit cadres completed at the end of last week, there are now sufficient W.T. instructors to carry out the weapon trg both of the Infantry and of the other arms.

(b) The men are quick to adapt themselves to British weapons, and results on the open ranges have been completely satisfactory. Mortars, both 2" and 3", have only very recently been received from the CREMONA Div, and trg will start shortly in these weapons. It is considered that the div trg scale of Mortars 2", Mortars 3", PIATs and Bren LMG (15, 9, 24 and 60 respectively), is inadequate. In order to keep trg realistic, it is intended to represent the difference between G 1098 and trg scales with the Italian equivalents - e.g. 45 mm and 81 mm mortars for British 2" and 3" mortars, and BREDA for BREN LMG.

No

(c) A period of PT at the beginning of the day is carried out in units. An AFEC instructor would be a great help.

(d) Officers' tactical trg is still in the lecture stage, the material being gathered mostly from I.T. Vol viii and appropriate MTP. Extracts from MTT observers' reports are also being translated into Italian.

(e) Arrangements are being made for the visit of an Intelligence Training Team, and a 3 day course in air photo interpretation is to be conducted on the 11, 12 and

6769

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1. General Progress - Infantry

(a) With the equipping of all men with boots and most of them with B.D. (some are still outstanding in the latter owing to u/s B.D. or wrong sizes having been issued in the first place), general trg has started. The emphasis at present is on weapon trg and route marching; the former because it is the basis of any further infantry trg and the latter because boots must be broken in and feet hardened. As a result of the unit cadres completed at the end of last week, there are now sufficient W.T. instructors to carry out the weapon trg both of the Infantry and of the other arms.

(b) The men are quick to adapt themselves to British weapons, and results on the open ranges have been completely satisfactory. Mortars, both 2" and 3", have only very recently been received from the CREMONA Div, and trg will start [illegible] in these weapons. It is considered that the div trg scale of Mortars 2", Mortars 3", PIATs and Bren LMG (15, 9, 24 and 60 respectively), is inadequate. In order to keep trg realistic, it is intended to represent the difference between G 1098 and trg scales with the Italian equivalents - e.g. 45 mm and 81 mm mortars for British 2" and 3" mortars, and BREDA for BREN LMG.

(c) A period of PT at the beginning of the day is carried out in units. An APTC instructor would be a great help.

(d) Officers' tactical trg is still in the lecture stage, the material being gathered mostly from I.T. Vol VIII and appropriate MTP. Extracts from LMT observers' reports are also being translated into Italian.

(e) Arrangements are being made for the visit of an Intelligence Training Team, and a 3 day course in air photo interpretation is to be conducted on the 11, 12 and 13 Dec by Capt BOURNE, lent for the purpose by CMTC.

2. State of Trg of Specialists and Tradesmen

(a) Sigs

No. 48 W/T sets have been issued up to G.1098 entitlement to bns. Three instrs per inf bn have been instructed in this set, and trg in sigs pls has started.

(b) Carriers.

The div instrs cadre course in carriers Universal and Lloyd has now finished, and the results have been most satisfactory, the students showing great keenness and mechanical ability. General trg in carrier pls is to start next week, two carriers universal being the allotment to each inf bn.

It will be possible to issue three carriers Lloyd per regimental A.Tk pl. The Div is still 5 short of its trg scale.

(c) Mortars 3"

As stated in para 1 (b).

6769

No

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(d) Pioneers

The assault sections of the Pioneer pl are only just being formed. Training in mines and the use of service explosives is to start forthwith.

Tradesmen are generally fully occupied at their trades and assisting in the maintenance of the division.

(e) 6 pr A.Tk gun

Training is continuing satisfactorily. Both the NZ3CO and S. MANCO regimental A.Tk coys have fired on open ranges; the former with good and the latter with moderate results. Lack of prime movers has hitherto prevented any tactical handling, siting, of guns, etc.

In future it is intended to centralise control of these coys very largely in the artillery. To this end, liaison visits to the artillery by the Commanders of the A.Tk coys are being arranged.

(f) R & M

The NZ3CO School of Instruction continues to function as well as can be expected with its extremely limited number of vehicles (4).

General BROWNING is aware of this difficulty, and is trying to obtain release of G 1098 vehicles in a steady stream in order to enable us to train sufficient drivers in time. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the standard of driving and traffic discipline is bound to be poor unless this is done soon.

3. Balance of Programme to be Completed

Collective training up to battalion level is envisaged ultimately. In order to reach this stage, individual trg must be completed, and section, pl and coy trg and exercises performed. No tactical trg with troops has yet started; nor can it start until the individual is considered to be trained in the basic subjects. Every effort is being made to speed up this progress; and it is pointed out that progress has been greatly retarded by lack of equipment. The position has now improved but the inf trg equipment of the division is practically everything except rifles No. 4, TMDs and guns, still leaves much to be desired, and the rate of progress can be properly gauged only in the light of this consideration. It is thought that another month is necessary to complete individual trg, and at least a further month for collective trg.

4. (i) Courses and Special Trg Completed.
(a) Officers and NCOs Unit W.T. Cadres.
(b) Div Carrier Cadres.
(c) Short Div Cadre in No. 48 W/T Set.

(ii) Courses in Progress
(a) Div Arty Course; three inf staff officers are attending.
(b) Sigs NCI Course at NZEFIA for 20 inf personnel.
(c) Fieldcraft and Battle-drill.

Two demonstration platoons - one per regt - have been formed. It is hoped that section and pl trg will be speeded up by demonstration rather than by lectures, and these pls will supply a small fully-trained nucleus who should be

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020
By NARA Date 2011

6768

expected with the [illegible]

General MONTGOMERY is aware of this difficulty, and is trying to obtain release of C 1098 vehicles in a steady stream in order to enable us to train sufficient drivers in time. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the standard of driving and traffic discipline is bound to be poor unless this is done soon.

3. Balance of Programme to be Completed

Collective training up to battalion level is envisaged ultimately. 6768 In order to reach this stage, individual trg must be completed, and section, pl and coy trg and exercises performed. No tactical trg with troops has yet started; nor can it start until the individual is considered to be trained in the basic subjects. Every effort is being made to speed up this progress; and it is pointed out that progress has been greatly retarded by lack of equipment. The position has now improved but the inf trg equipment of the division is practically everything except rifles No. 4, TMCs and guns, still leaves much to be desired, and the rate of progress can be properly gauged only in the light of this consideration. It is thought that another month is necessary to complete individual trg, and at least a further month for collective trg.

4. (i) Courses and Special Trg Completed.
(a) Officers and NCOs Unit W.T. Cadres.
(b) Div Carrier Cadres.
(c) Short Div Cadre in No. 48 W/T Set.

(ii) Courses in Progress
(a) Div Arty Course; three inf staff officers are attending.
(b) Sigs RSI Course at MCCMA for 20 inf personnel.
(c) Fieldcraft and Battle-drill.

Two demonstration platoons - one per regt - have been formed. It is hoped that section and pl trg will be speeded up by demonstration rather than by lectures, and these pls will supply a small fully-trained nucleus who should be invaluable if training has to be curtailed for any reason.

(iii) Courses Arranged
(a) Junior Leaders course at CMTC for 25 students starting 12 Dec.
(b) Div air photo interpretation course 11, 12 and 13 Dec.
(c) Div Pioneer course, starting 1 Dec.
(d) Instrs refresher course 3" Mortar, starting 28 Nov.

5. Any Special Difficulties etc.

(a) Non- availability of No 69 Grenades; Otherwise none that have not been previously reported on many occasions, or noted earlier in this report.

(b) The inadequacy of the ration remains a discouraging feature, as does the complete absence of any welfare arrangements, both of which points affect morale and therefore training.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Arty Trg Report

1. General Progress

(a) Gun Drill

Good progress has been made chiefly because the gunners are already trained gunners and have merely to learn a new equipment. Training of Nos 1 and layers is proceeding well. 17 pr drill is proceeding satisfactory. Before drill is at present backward but has improved considerably this week. Practice in occupation of positions will be handicapped by lack of towing vehicles.

(b) Technical Gunnery.

Technical knowledge among the officers appears to be good. Several officers and NCOs have been trained at the RA Training team at Cerreto and the regiment has decided to adopt English methods with few insignificant exceptions. Specialist training in batteries is continuing, but has not been shown in practice yet.

(c) Signals.

The regiment has received 12 x No. 48 sets.
40 x No. 11 sets.
58 x D5 Telephones.

in the last few days. Knowledge of L/T and Morse code is adequate. Training in W/T has hitherto been handicapped by lack of sets, but will now be intensified. Adequate instructors are available.

(d) M.T.

Two batteries which were previously motorised are in a satisfactory position as regards drivers and mechanics. The other batteries are aiming at training 16 drivers per troop. There is a shortage of training vehicles and though the learner drivers are on the road all day, the situation is not satisfactory.

2. State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

6767

(a) Gunnery Specialists and Surveyors.

Reasonably satisfactory. 24 officers and NCOs have attended a course at Cerreto. Training instruments are inadequate (see para 5).

(b) Small Arms.

12 students have attended a course at a British school. No. 4 training team is intending to train further instructors shortly.

(c) Storemen.

15 storemen trained in British methods at 557 BOD Pontecagnano.

(d) Gun Fitters.

14 NCOs trained at a British school. Also all students at RA training team course were taught elementary gun fitting.

(e) M.T. Fitters.

20 fitters were trained at Molfetta, But lack of British vehicles prevents adequate instruction of drivers and driver mechanics.

(f) Signallers.

19 officers and men have attended courses at Royal Signals School at Castl Lavro. 40 officers and men are at present attending a course at Nocera.

3. Balance of programme.

(a) 25 Pr.

[illegible] and drill orders to start as soon as transport position

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

in the last few days. Knowledge of L/T and Morse code is adequate. Training in W/T has hitherto been handicapped by lack of sets, but will now be intensified. Adequate instructors are available.

(a) M.T.
Two batteries which were previously motorised are in a satisfactory position as regards drivers and mechanics. The other batteries are aiming at training 16 drivers per troop. There is a shortage of training vehicles and though the learner drivers are on the road all day, the situation is not satisfactory.

6767

2. State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.
(a) Gunnery Specialists and Surveyors.
Reasonably satisfactory. 24 officers and NCOs have attended a course at Corrato. Training instruments are inadequate (see para 5).
(b) Small Arms.
42 students have attended a course at a British school. No. 4 training team is intending to train further instructors shortly.
(c) Storemen.
15 storemen trained in British methods at 557 BOD Pontecagnano.
(d) Gun Fitters.
14 NCOs trained at a British school. Also all students at RA training team course were taught elementary gun fitting.
(e) M.T. Fitters.
20 fitters were trained at Melfetta, but lack of British vehicles prevents adequate instruction of drivers and driver mechanics.
(f) Signallers.
19 officers and men have attended courses at Royal Signals School at Castl Lauro. 40 officers and men are at present attending a course at Rocca.

3. Balance of programme.
(a) 25 pr.
Troop training and drill orders to start as soon as transport position will allow. The delay is not considered serious in this connection as the gunners are already experienced. Course shooting by each troop will take place at RA TT range at Corrato (M4698) 1 - 4 Dec. Fire and movement may be possible in this area, but it will probably be necessary to use RA TD range at Eboli if necessary arrangements can be made.
(b) 17 pr.
Sub-calibre shooting at PANCRAZIO (M4097) during week 27 Nov. Full charge range at PAESTUM (M3611) [illegible] is at present causing difficulty (see para 5). Tactical training of officers and Nos 1 will start week 27 Nov.
(c) Before.
Silent practice at Naples aerodrome probably 2nd week of December. A.Tk shooting at PAESTUM (M3611) as soon as range is in commission. Gun drill not at present satisfactory.
(d) Deployment.
Wireless schemes will begin 2nd week December, but will necessarily have to be static. Deployment exercises are at present not possible, but English methods are being studied.
(e) Signalling.
W/T training will be given high priority for the next few weeks. L/T and visual training will take place with British equipment. Although numerically the

...../definitely

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

deficiency in sigs specialists appears high there are adequate trained instructors to remedy this situation comparatively quickly.

(f) M.T.

Driver training will continue with all available vehicles. Adequate copies of the 16 task system printed in Italian are now available and will be taught to all officers and drivers.

4. Courses and Special Training Completed.

Subject.	Students.	School.
(a) 25 pr and Fd Gunnery	24 officers and NCOs.	RA TT (Cerreto)
(b) 17 pr and A/T Gunnery.	9 " " "	" "
(c) 40mm Bofors and LAA Gunnery.	11 " " "	" "
(d) Driver Mechanics.	20 ORs.	L and M School (Molfetta).
(e) Small Arms.	12 ORs.	CMRO
(f) Starters.	15 officers and ORs.	557 RCD
(g) Gun Fitters.	14 ORs.	
(h) Ammunition Mob.	6 ORs.	
(i) Signallers.	59 officers and ORs.	Royal Signal School and Italian Try School [redacted]

5. Difficulties Encountered.

(a) Gun Drill.

1. 25 pr. nil.
2. 17 pr. no Telescopes sighting. No. 41 issued. At least one required.
3. Bofors. Training guns are not fitted with Stiffkey Sticks. At Present RA TT are lending their guns for the training with this defect.

(b) Technical Gunnery.

3 Directors are available. One was received with a broken levelling bubble. The number is inadequate for training 4 batteries and a Regt Survey 0766 3 more are required as a minimum. 4 Arty Boards are held. A further 8 are required.

(c) Signals.

No difficulties so far encountered.

(d) M.T.

By far the greatest problem. Training vehicles are required for driver training. 12 would be an adequate number. Mechanical knowledge and maintenance would be improved if a few old vehicles from a salvage dump could be obtained. They need not be runners.

(e) Practice Ammunition.

Adequate.

(f) Practice Ranges.

It is hoped to have a full charge A/T range for all guns of the Division fitted up at Matese. At present no towing rope is available for the moving targets, 400 yards of rope has been indented for. It is considered that the targets can be made from local resources.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Mt Try Report.

1. General Progress made to date.

The only training so far has been in mines, weapon training, improvised bridging and diversions ; this is still far from complete. The training Bailey set has been received but is still incomplete as some of it was lost by the ORSEMA Gp during training and deficiencies have not yet been made up. Replacements, however, have just been released and will be collected in the near future. A comprehensive collection of mines has been made and a mines museum is almost completed.

2. State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

It is impossible to tell at the moment the state of training of tradesmen, as no equipment or material has been available for trade work. Judging by the small amount of joiner work and bricklaying that has been possible the standard in these trades are fairly high.

3. Balance of Programme to be Completed.

(a) Fd Coys.

Complete dry Bailey bridge training.
60% mine warfare training.
90% weapon training.
20% diversions and road maintenance.
100% fieldcraft and battle drill.
100% fieldworks and water supply.

(b) Fd Pk Coy.

Only weapon training and a small amount of mine warfare has been done by them. All the rest of the programme including - use of British equipment
Storekeeping
Driving etc.
must still be completed.

6765

4. Courses and Special Training Completed.

The following number of officers and N.C.Os. have done courses and are qualified as instructors :-

Field Engineering	9 N.C.Os. trained at RMTC.
Weapon Training	2 Officers 9 N.C.Os. trained at RMTC.
Mines and Bailey Bridging	2 Officers 8 N.C.Os. trained at RMTC.

5. Special Difficulties.

(a) Bailey equipment not yet complete.
(b) Lack of transport. Only three - 3 ton lorries held by Eng Bn.
(c) Training is almost impossible in wet weather as no gas capes or ground - sheets are held and it is impossible to find accomodation for drying clothes.
(d) The present scale of rations is considered insufficient for men doing intensive Bailey bridge training.

Sigs Trg Report.

1. General Programme.

(a) Infantry and Artillery.

Wireless. - All No 48 sets and nearly all No. 11 sets have been issued. Two day courses have been given at SETS Coy Bn to selected personnel. A Signals officer has been appointed in each Bn and each Bty to be responsible for trg and maintenance of equipment. Trg in No. 48 sets is proceeding satisfactorily. No. 11 sets have only just been issued and it is not yet known what condition they are in.

Line - The bulk of equipment released by AFHQ has been issued. The remainder is on temporary loan to the school at ROCCHA. Trg in this equipment is in its initial stages.

(b) Signals Coy. - Several factors have contributed to slow up trg.

1. (a) Conditions of living. - The entire Engineer Bn was until two days ago, quartered in the tiny hamlet of CA TRE VIENTI, where virtually the only accommodation was the SCUOLA MEDIA. The men lived in tents. They were frequently washed out [illegible] by storms at night. The Engineer Coy has now moved to CASTELFRANCO, leaving CASTEL VENERO to Signals. This has greatly relieved the pressure.

(b) Battle dress has not yet been issued, as most of the consignment sent were wrong sizes. It is hoped to put this right shortly. Meanwhile the men continue to wear thin summer clothes.

(c) Diet is inadequate in calorific value. More oil or margarine and more biscuits are required.

2. Delay in Drawing Signals Controlled Stores. - This has been due to the unfortunate geographical situation of the Gruppo, the lack of transport, and to bad weather. The round trip to Pontecagnano requires two days. Several journeys have had to be made owing to the limited number of vehicles available. There have been periods of several days when collection was held up altogether, owing either to lack of transport or collapsed bridges. Practically all the stores released by AFHQ have however now been collected, and the bulk distributed to the various units of the Gruppo.

6761

3. Lack of Transport. - This has a paralysing effect on nearly all forms of trg D.Rs, drivers and L.As can do scarcely any trg at all. O.W.Ls and linesmen can go through the initial theoretical stages but are handicapped as soon as field trg should begin.

4. Lack of Equipment. - Certain controlled equipment such as linesmens pouches filled and L.As and D.Rs toolkits are not included in the AFHQ release. We have been advised to indent for these, item by item. This is now being done. Certain items of uncontrolled stores are in very short supply, viz. insulating tape, solder and flux, jack-knives and pliers. This holds up linesmen trg.

(c) Signals School [illegible].

The following personnel from the Gruppo are at the School :-
Cable Signals Course 40, Artillery and Infantry Signals Course 72.

On visiting the School on Saturday 18 Nov. I found serious deficiencies in equipment. There were for example no No. 11 sets, no No. 48 sets with generators and only five with batteries, no A.C.Ls 2 or 3, no Fullerphones and

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Sigs Trg Report.

1. General Programme.

(a) Infantry and Artillery.

Wireless. - All No 48 sets and nearly all No. 11 sets have been issued. Two days courses have been given at SIGS Coy HQ to selected personnel. A Signals officer has been appointed in each Bn and each Bty to be responsible for trg and maintenance of equipment. Trg in No. 48 sets is proceeding satisfactorily. No. 11 sets have only just been issued and it is not yet known what condition they are in.

Line - The bulk of equipment released by AFHQ has been issued. The remainder is on temporary loan to the school at ROCCA. Trg in this equipment is in its initial stages.

(b) Signals Coy. - Several factors have contributed to slow up trg.

1. (a) Conditions of living. - The entire Engineer Bn was until two days ago, quartered in the tiny hamlet of CASTEL VERDE, where virtually the only accommodation was the SCUOLA MEDIA. The men lived in tents. They were frequently washed out [illegible] by storms at night. The Engineer Coy has now moved to CERRETO, leaving CASTEL VERDE to Signals. This has greatly relieved the pressure.

(b) Battle dress has not yet been issued, as most of the consignment sent were wrong sizes. It is hoped to put this right shortly. Meanwhile the men continue to wear thin summer clothes.

(c) Diet is inadequate in calorific value. More oil or margarine and more biscuits are required.

2. Delay in Drawing Signals Controlled Stores. - This has been due to the unfortunate geographical situation of the Gruppo, the lack of transport, and the bad weather. The round trip to Pontecagnano requires two days. Several journeys have had to be made owing to the limited number of vehicles available. There have been periods of several days when collection was held up altogether, owing either to lack of transport or collapsed bridges. Practically all the stores released by AFHQ have however now been collected, and the bulk distributed to the various units of the Gruppo.

3. Lack of Transport. - This has a paralysing effect on nearly all forms of trg L.Rs, drivers and L. s can do scarcely any trg at all. O.P.Ls and linesmen can go through the initial theoretical stages but are handicapped as soon as field trg should begin.

4. Lack of Equipment. - Certain controlled equipment such as linesmens pouches filled and L.Rs and S.Rs toolkits are not included in the AFHQ release. We have been advised to indent for these, item by item. This is now being done. Certain items of uncontrolled stores are in very short supply, viz. insulating tape, solder and flux, jack-knives and pliers. This holds up linesmen trg.

(c) Signals School ROCCA.

The following personnel from the Gruppo are at the School :-
Cadre Signals Course 40, Artillery and Infantry Signals Course 72.

On visiting the School on Saturday 18 Nov. I found serious deficiencies in equipment. There were for example no No. 11 sets, no No. 48 sets with generators and only five with batteries, no S.Rs, 2 or 3 no Fullerphones and

6761

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(c) Diet is inadequate in calorific value. More oil or margarine and more biscuits are required.

2. Delay in Drawing Signals Controlled Stores. - This has been due to the unfortunate geographical situation of the Gruppo, the lack of transport, and the bad weather. The round trip to Pontecagnano requires two days. Several journeys have had to be made owing to the limited number of vehicles available. There have been periods of several days when collection was held up altogether, owing either to lack of transport or collapsed bridges. Practically all the stores released by A.F.H.Q. have however now been collected, and the bulk distributed to the various units of the Gruppo.

3. Lack of Transport. - This has a paralysing effect on nearly all forms of trg D.Rs, drivers and D.R.s can do scarcely any trg at all. O.W.Ls and linemen can go through the initial theoretical stages but are handicapped as soon as field trg should begin.

4. Lack of Equipment. - Certain controlled equipment such as linemens pouches filled and L.R.s and R.T.s toolkits are not included in the A.F.H.Q. release. We have been advised to indent for these, item by item. This is now being done. Certain items of uncontrolled stores are in very short supply, viz. insulating tape, solder and flux, jack-knives and pliers. This holds up linemen trg.

(c) Signals School Courses.

The following personnel from the Gruppo are at the School :-
Radio Signals Course 40, Artillery and Infantry Signals Course 72.

On visiting the School on Saturday 18 Nov. I found serious deficiencies in equipment. There were for example no No. 11 sets, no No. 48 sets with generators and only five with batteries, no A.C.Ls 2 or 3, no Fullerphones and only 1 superposing unit, no charging engines, no drum barrows, no testing instruments. 601A Sigs Rep has not arrived and had still not arrived on Wednesday 22 Nov. I made most of the deficiencies good by loaning Gruppo 6 1038 stores. An examiner is still urgently required. There are various other deficiencies in consumable stores which can only be attended to by an English officer on the spot.

2. State of Training of Trades.

Despatch Riders	Impossible to carry out any practical trg as the Sigs Coy has no motorcycles.
Vehicle Mechanics	Practical trg impossible owing to the lack of vehicles
Electricians Signals	Satisfactory. Now have a good working knowledge of British equipment.
Electrician Signal (Battery)	There were no E.S. (Sty charging) on Italian version of Gruppo W.E. We have therefore had to train five line operators for this work. They have made satisfactory progress and charging of new batteries has now begun under the supervision of Capt ZAMI. Shortage of hydrometers and vaseline.
Instrument Mechanics	There was only one I.M. in the Coy, whereas the establishment is 15. 14 are under training and progress is satisfactory. We have one examiner, two test sets No 65 F and one test set I 65 H, but no I.Ms bellicks.

.....Appendix

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Linemen.	Lack of vehicles hampers training; also lack of insulating tape, solder and flux, jack-knives and pliers.
Operators W/T	Training in British sets is satisfactory on theoretical side. Lack of transport has made it impossible to work sets at normal ranges.
Operators line	Satisfactory progress with Fullerphone.
T.S.M.Os.	Satisfactory progress with U.S. 10 and F.F.
Drivers	The driving school has one vehicle. As there are 50 drivers practical instruction makes slow progress.

3. Balance of Programme to be completed.

All training requiring extensive use of vehicles.

Artillery and Infantry Sige Training in general, as much of the equipment has only just been issued.

4. Courses and Special Training Completed.

A small number of Genio personnel have attended British Signals Course at Lauro. They are now acting as a nucleus for instruction of the remainder.

5. Special Difficulties.

Lack of transport is the outstanding handicapp at the present. Until the Gruppo receives its G 1098 transport or an adequate allowance of training vehicles it obviously cannot prepare for modern war.

6763

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

29/32 161

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Trg of LEGNANO Combat Gp as at 2[illegible] Nov 44

SECRET

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ, CMF

Tel: 10610

29/32

DMT/55/A12/Mgt

29 Nov 44.

WP
#Dec

HQ AAI

COPY to: HQ MAIA
G-3 Gen (Foreign), AFHQ

1. General Progress - Infantry

The general progress in not in accordance with what was expected for the following reasons:-

(a) Late arrival of leading stores from MEDIT Gruppo

(b) Shortage of these stores owing to
(i) inevitable damage
(ii) neglect causing unserviceability

6762

(c) Absence of component parts necessary for certain weapons

(d) Late formation of certain units, these are:-

Alpini Abruzzi and 3rd Bn 68th Regt

both of which were completed on 11 Nov.

As a result of the above delays, the situation at present is as follows:-

Inf All instructors trained in weapons, all weapon training will be completed by 30 Nov except Mortars and A Tk guns.

Twelve instructors per bn trained in mine warfare. Two demonstration pls composed as under are being taught by G II and will be ready 30 Nov.
Compagnia 1 officer 1 NCO sec 1 Rifle sec per bn
Assault pioneers, two courses of one weeks duration to be run by 51 Engineer Bn
I Sec course in process of formation, to be run by Regtl E. officers.
Snipers - Men in process of selection, course in abeyance until material drawn.
For Arty, Sigs, Sans - see attached reports.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

following reasons:-

(a) Late arrival of landing stores from BRIDI Coppo

(b) Shortage of these stores owing to
(i) inevitable damage
(ii) neglect causing unserviceability

(c) Absence of component parts necessary for certain weapons

(d) Late formation of certain units, these are:-

Alpini Abruzzi and 3rd pn 68th Regt

both of which were completed on 11 Nov.

As a result of the above delays, the situation at present is as follows:-

Inf. All instructors trained in weapons, all weapon training will be completed by 30 Nov except Bantam and A Tk guns.

Twelve instructors per bn trained in mine warfare. Two demonstration plns composed as under are being taught by G II and will be ready 30 Nov.
Composition 1 officer 1 NCO 36 1 Rifle sec per bn
Assault pioneers, two courses of one weeks duration to be run by 51 Engineer Bn
I Gds course in process of formation, to be run by Regtl I. officers.
Snipers - Men in process of selection, course in abeyance until material drawn.
For Arty, Sigs, Sqns - see attached reports.

2. See attached list also 9 reports. The training of drivers is progressing slowly owing to the shocking condition of the roads in this area. This also applies to the training of motor cyclists. The training of certain tradesmen is entirely dependant on the provision of the tools of the trade e.g. Armourers. Mty repair workshops, I.A.Ds.

3. All training in advance of 1 & 2.

4. See attached list.

...../2

6762

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. (a) Absence of training increment now that collective training is about to start.

(b) Lack of interpreters, only three are available in the Group.

(c) Road conditions for driving instruction.

(d) Shortage of individual weapons. The full scale of Rifles, TSMGs and Revolvers should be issued.

(e) Absence of cover for indoor instruction.

NOTE: (c) and (e) will be improved as soon as the Group moves to its new area at MACCIANO

ARTILLERY TRAINING REPORT

1. The training of personnel in 11th Italian Arty Regt has passed little beyond the individual stage, owing to the very limited scale of training equipment.

2. Specialists They have mastered the elements of British instruments but are slow, owing to an insufficiency of directors and arty boards on which to practice. There are 4 arty boards and 3 directors for eight troops.

Gun Numbers Progress is rather more satisfactory. They are slow but satisfactorily accurate.

The training of gun numbers and specialists was not able to commence before the 23 Oct 44 as equipment had not arrived.

Signallers Wireless training on a small scale has been in progress for ten days. As from 20 Nov 44 wireless training will be in progress in all batteries of the regt. Italian personnel show a satisfactory capability for learning and operating British wireless sets.

No training in the laying of telephone lines has been possible as no cable laying apparatus has been issued, and only a very small amount of old cable is held.

3. Firing was carried out by all batteries of the regt during the week 12/18 Nov on equipment borrowed from the RA Training Team and the MTD at EBOLI. Results were slow but a satisfactory degree of accuracy was achieved.

4. No mobile training has been possible. This will be started on a troop basis during the week commencing 27 Nov, with such Italian vehicles as are obtainable, but this will of necessity be of a makeshift nature. It is estimated that a month's training with full equipment will be necessary to achieve a sufficient standard.

5. The Italian personnel show considerable keenness to learn and are not unduly slow to learn new methods, but get very little inspiration from the limited

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6761

beyond the p...

2. Specialists. They have mastered th... slow, owing to an insufficiency of directors and army boards. There are 4 army boards and 3 directors for eight troops.

Gun Numbers. Progress is rather more satisfactory. They are slow but satisfactorily accurate.

6761

The training of gun numbers and specialists was not able to commence before the 22 Oct 44 as equipment had not arrived.

Signallers. Wireless training on a small scale has been in progress for ten days. As from 20 Nov 44 wireless training will be in progress in all batteries of the regt. Italian personnel show a satisfactory capability for learning and operating British wireless sets.

No training in the laying of telephone lines has been possible as no cable laying apparatus has been issued, and only a very small amount of old cable is held.

3. Firing was carried out by all batteries of the regt during the week 12/18 Nov on equipment borrowed from the RA Training Team and the 16th) at [redacted]. Results were slow but a satisfactory degree of accuracy was achieved.

4. No mobile training has been possible. This will be started on a troop basis during the week commencing 27 Nov, with such Italian vehicles as are obtainable, but this will of necessity be of a makeshift nature. It is estimated that a month's training with full equipment will be necessary to achieve a sufficient standard.

5. The Italian personnel show considerable keenness to learn and are not unduly slow to learn new methods, but get very little inspiration from the limited equipment they have, much of which is not in good condition, and all guns incapable of firing.

6. As only a small number of officers and seniors attended British courses of instruction, and those only short ones, when this knowledge is disseminated throughout the whole regiment, it does not bear as much resemblance to British methods as might be desired.

7. Methods of engagement of targets and fire control have not been taught and they are still using Italian methods. These seem to me slow and lacking in sufficient control by the officer directing the fire of the guns. However I have not diverged from the policy at present laid down.

8. Eight senior officers are at present on a course at CERRITO which will finish 25 Nov 44.

.../3

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

State of training - 51 Engineer Bn

3rd ARTIERI Coy

(a) One pl training in Bailey Bridging. Two-thirds of initial training programme completed. Considering the lack of experienced NCOs and the fact that training throughout has of necessity been carried out entirely by one officer only (S.Ten. Cecchetto), progress has been highly satisfactory. Further training will be need in organising work by NCOs and in handling equipment by the men.

Senior NCOs should be trained to take charge of the complete Bridging operation so that they will be capable of carrying on in the event of the O i/c becoming a casualty.

(b) One platoon training in Demolitions and Mine Warfare Training completed in recognition of all British, American and German mines, and those Italian mines which I considered necessary. Practical work (continual repetition) in laying minefields, arming, neutralising and lifting all types of mines now in progress.

Two weeks completed of 4 weeks programme.

(c) One platoon engaged in reconstruction and reinforcement of bridges in PIEDIMONTE destroyed or damaged by recent storms.

2. 51st ARTIERI COY

Complete company engaged in repairing ALIFE Road mainly in dangerous spots where the road has been washed away by recent rainfall.

6760

12 days previously completed of a 4 weeks Mine Warfare and Demolition programme.

Report on Try of 'Q' Staff & 'S.T.' Coy

1. 'Q' Staff

The greatest difficulty in training the 'Q' Staff in their duties was to make them (a) to realise the necessity for decentralisation of work to Services and (b) the necessity of the compilation of up to the minute Staff tables and sitreps.

This difficulty has to a large extent been overcome, whereas before the 'Q' Staff was dealing IN DETAIL with Supp, ammn, petrol, clothing, equipment, vehs, etc., they now have decentralised the duties to the SS Coy and to the DADOS (The appointment of DADOS in the Group is filled by the officer intended for Commissariat duties which are negligible). Staff Tables for the division have been made up and a satisfactory 'Q' Admin sitrep has been compiled and all units will be fully cognizant with this before the Group moves into an operational zone.

After a few more weeks of working with British staff duties as a basis, the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(c) One platoon engaged in reconstruction and reinforcement of bridges in PIEDIMONTE destroyed or damaged by recent storms.

2. 51st ARTILLERY COY

Complete company engaged in repairing ALIFE Road mainly in dangerous spots where the road has been washed away by recent rainfall.

6760

12 days previously completed of a 4 weeks Mine Warfare and Demolition programme.

Report on Try of 'Q' Staff & 'S.T.' Coy

1. 'Q' Staff

The greatest difficulty in training the 'Q' Staff in their duties was to make them (a) to realise the necessity for decentralisation of work to Services and (b) the necessity of the compilation of up to the minute Staff tables and sitreps.

This difficulty has to a large extent been overcome, whereas before the 'Q' Staff was dealing IN DETAIL with Supp, ammn, petrol, clothing, equipment, vehs, etc., they now have decentralised the duties to the SF Coy and to the DADOS (The appointment of DADOS in the Group is filled by the officer intended for Commissariat duties which are negligible). Staff Tables for the division have been made up and a satisfactory 'Q' Admin sitrep has been compiled and all units will be fully cognisant with this before the Group moves into an operational zone.

After a few more weeks of working with British staff duties as a basis, the 'Q' staff of the LEGHORN Group should be excellent.

2. 'S.T.' Coy

The Commander of the coy and his officers are now fully trained in S.T. work in the field. The commander in particular has an excellent grasp of all S.T. matters. The Coy Commander and his senior supply officer spent a week attached to the 4th Divisional RASC in the line and saw every phase of ST work. the two composite platoons are trained and ready to function.

The standard of driving is good, though it has been impossible to organise any convoy night driving exercises etc., owing to the present heavy employment of the transport. As soon as 1st line transport for units is received the Transport Coy will be taken off duties and an intensive training period begun.

It is considered that after a short period of such training the 'S.T.' Coy will be more than capable of fulfilling its duties in the field.

...../4

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Report on Signal Training

1. General Progress

(a) All controlled signal stores have been in the hands of units for more than two weeks, some much longer.

(b) No uncontrolled signal stores have yet arrived other than some which are ancillary to wireless sets. On 21 Nov 44 it was laid down by Ord 13 AFHQ that uncontrolled stores could be indented for, which is being done.

(c) Almost no transport is available yet for training purposes.

(d) Personnel all through the Gruppo are now nearly complete for numbers against signals establishments. A heavy proportion are however bodies with no previous experience. The worst case is the main one, namely operators. There are approximately 250 from all arms, to train from nothing.

2. State of training of specialists and tradesmen.

(a) Operators (i) Signal Coy. Attention so far primarily been concentrated on wireless. A basic knowledge of procedure and of the sets exists but much further practice is required. This week the first lectures on the Signal Office, use of British stationery etc are being given.

(ii) Others. As above except for Signal Office training.

(b) Linemen (i) Signal Coy. The men are experienced but do not come up to British standards. Lack of transport precludes much line laying. Lectures are being given.

(ii) Others. As above, but it has not yet been possible to allot British NCO instructors. This will be done in the near future.

(iii) Remarks. The Italians have depended very much on line in the past, and although the neatness of laying and efficiency of maintenance leave much to be desired, the relatively high proportion of personnel who have plenty of experience renders the position better than in some other trades.

(c) Switchboard Operators

Fairly good throughout the Gruppo. British exchanges have been brought into daily use.

(d) Instrument Mechanics and Electricians Signal (Genie only)

State of training in use of British equipment is fair. The issue of used No 11 Sets (in lieu of No 22 Sets) has meant for instance that much work has had to be done on these before they would work at all; This has greatly

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6759

2. State of training of specialists and tradesmen.

(a) Operators (i) Signal Coy. Attention so far primarily been concentrated on wireless. A basic knowledge of procedure and of the sets exists but much further practise is required. This week the first lectures on the Signal Office, use of British stationery etc are being given.

(ii) Others. As above except for Signal Office training.

0759

(b) Linemen (i) Signal Coy. The men are experienced but do not come up to British standards. Lack of transport precludes much line laying. Lectures are being given.

(ii) Others. As above, but it has not yet been possible to allot British NCO instructors. This will be done in the near future.

(iii) Remarks. The Italians have depended very much on line in the past, and although the neatness of laying and efficiency of maintenance leave much to be desired, the relatively high proportion of personnel who have plenty of experience renders the position better than in some other trades.

(c) Switchboard Operators

Fairly good throughout the Gruppo. British exchanges have been brought into daily use.

(d) Instrument Mechanics and Electricians Signal (Genio only)

State of training in use of British equipment is fair. The issue of used No 11 Sets (in lieu of No 22 Sets) has meant for instance that much work has had to be done on them before they would work at all; This has greatly benefited Italian Elms who have worked alongside British personnel from the RLM Rear Link Signal Section. Italian workmanship and knowledge seems very fair.

The liability here is the deficiency of 8 Elms out of 15.

(e) Drivers and MEs (Genio only)

Almost no driving instruction can be given to the inexperienced owing to lack of transport and unsuitability of roads. No full assessment of the state of training is yet possible, but the proportion of fairly experienced drivers in the Genio may be taken as over 50%. Map reading is however generally poor.

Balance of Programme to be Completed

(a) Practical wireless operating. At least 4 weeks.
(b) Morse. Many weeks of morse training for beginners.
(c) Signal office and Message procedure etc. 3 weeks.

...../5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(d) Lines. Practical line laying with British vehicles and equipment. 2 weeks from time equipment is all available.

(e) Switchboard Ops. OK Now.

(f) DRs and DRs. 4 weeks.

(g) Drivers and DRs. Probably many weeks before a British standard could be reached, but 4 weeks with enough vehicles and proper roads should place them at a minimum servicable standard as Italians.

4. Courses and Special Training completed.

Instruction on all British equipment to at least a cadre from each unit.

Primary instruction on wireless procedure to all.

5. Any special difficulties encountered.

(a) Lack of transport. (b) The hold up on the issue of uncontrolled stores e.g. no wireless sets were issued with charged batteries either wet or dry, and consequently special application had to be made for (i) electrolyte (ii) dry batteries. Neither are yet available in entirety, although it is now hoped they will be in hand within 7 days, or at most 14 days. 6758
(c) The big number of complete beginners of all arms for wireless operating.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

DEFICIENCIES IN SPECIALISTS AS AT 15 NOVEMBER 1944

29/2440

SPECIALISTS	TOTAL OF DEFICIENCIES
Drivers	441
Smiths	NIL
Bricklayers	NIL
Draftsmen	NIL
Motor Mechs	53
Electricians	9
Pump Ops	10
Sappers	NIL
Artists	NIL
Plumbers	4
Dvr Mechs	5
Boatmen	NIL
M/Cs	126
Tel Engineers	NIL
Radio Eng	12
Linesmen	NIL
W/T Operators	230
Telegraphists	8
Exchange Ops	NIL
Cipher Ops	NIL
Director Ops	NIL
Teleplanists	NIL

6757

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Artists	NIL
Plumbers	4
Dvr Mechs	5
Boatmen	NIL
M/Cs	128
Tel Engineers	NIL
Radio Eng	12
Lineamen	NIL
W/T Operators	230
Telegraphists	8
Exchange Ops	NIL
Cipher Ops	NIL
Director Ops	NIL
Telephonists	NIL
Tractor Drivers	NIL
Armourers	57
Armourer Mechs	NIL
Carpenters	16
Mechanics	4
Signallers	NIL
Engineers	NIL
Artificers	NIL
Med Orderlies	NIL
Gen Duties	NIL

6757

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

11212

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Summary of training courses in schools outside the LEGNANO Gruppo

67.56

SUBJECT OF COURSE	DURATION OF COURSE	LOCATION OF COURSE
1. Platoon Weapons	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Benevento
2. 3" Mortar	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Benevento
3. General course for Senior Officers Subjects:- (i) Defence (ii) Attack (iii) Patrols and Raids (iv) Various subjects e.g. On picking out positions; Types of Enemy Weapons in action; Tpt & the interpretation of night noises in warfare; Mindery and camouflage; Explosives, Mines and minefields; Well being of the soldier.	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Benevento
4. 6 Pr Gun	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro
5. 17 Pr Gun	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro
6. 25 Pr Gun	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro
7. 40 mm Gun	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro
8. O.P.Rs.	24 Sep - 15 Oct) 15 Oct - 4 Nov)	Portocannone

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

67566

training courses in schools outside the LEMAIR Group (para 4)

	DURATION OF COURSE	LOCATION OF COURSE	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WHO ATTENDED OFFICERS	ORs
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Benevento	10	25
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Benevento	9	11
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Benevento	6	-
n picking out y weapons in truction of ; military and mines and the soldier.				
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro	6	11
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro	3	2
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro	6	11
	20 Sep - 11 Oct	Colleferro	6	4
	24 Sep - 15 Oct) 15 Oct - 4 Nov)	Portacapuano	(7 (	115

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

67755

SUBJECT OF COURSE	DURATION OF COURSE	LOCATION OF COURSE
9. Signals	18 Sep - 30 Sep	Lauro di Nola
10. Ammunition	2 Oct - 28 Oct	Pontecagnano
11. Specialists in Arty	18 Sep - 30 Sep	Scafati
12. Carabinieri Reali	1 Oct - 9 Oct	Ottaviano Al Vesuvio
13. Britsh M.T. Equipment & Material	25 Sep - 7 Oct	Torre Annunziata
14. S & T Company	6 Oct - 12 Oct	Nola
15. Hygiene	30 Oct - 4 Nov	Benevento
16. Field Works	23 Oct - 28 Oct	Capua
17. I.Os Course	25 Oct - 11 Nov	Rome

NOTE: Course No 8 was the only course which produced any failures:- i.e. 16 ORs failed to pass.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6755

DURATION OF COURSE	LOCATION OF COURSE	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WHO ATTENDED OFFICERS	ORs
18 Sep - 30 Sep	Lauro di Nola	10	13
9 Oct - 21 Oct	Pontecagnano	-	17
15 Sep - 30 Sep	Bonfati	-	12
1 Oct - 9 Oct	Ottaviano AI Vesuvio	2	8
25 Sep - 7 Oct	Torre Annunziata	2	50
6 Oct - 12 Oct	Nola	6	24
30 Oct - 4 Nov	Benevento	1	14
23 Oct - 28 Oct	Capua	-	12
25 Oct - 11 Nov	Nola	5	-

Amplification any failures:- i.e. 16 who failed to pass.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Summary of training courses for "Student Instructors" carried on from 27 Oct - 10 Nov 44 in [illegible]

	COURSES	ORGANISED BY	INSTRUCTORS OFFRS	INSTRUCTORS WOs
1.	Regtl course - for offrs, on Inf weapons and general particulars on their use.	60 Inf Regt HQ Spec Inf Regt HQ	6 8	- -
2.	Regtl course on platoon weapons	60 Inf Regt HQ Spec Inf Regt HQ 11 Arty Regt HQ	4 4 1	11 11 2
3.	Regtl course on 3" Mortar	60 Inf Regt HQ Spec Inf Regt HQ	4 4	4 4
4.	Regtl course on 6 pr gun	60 Inf Regt HQ Spec Inf Regt HQ	3 3	6 6
5.	Regtl course on Sigs (from 19 Oct)	60 Inf Regt HQ Spec Inf Regt HQ 11 Arty Regt HQ	1 1 ½	1 1 2
6.	Group course on Arty weapons and for specialist personnel of Arty Regt	11 Arty Regt HQ	24	18
7.	Bn course on "ABRITO" capt (mines & mine det)	51 Inf Bn HQ	2	1
8.	Bn course for "Instructors" (cable charges & bangalore torpedoes)	51 Inf Bn HQ	1	1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

nstructors" carried on from last - 10 now 1/4 in LEGUAN combat group

ORGANIZED BY	INSTRUCTORS OFFS	INSTRUCTORS NCOs	STUDENTS OFFS	STUDENTS OTHS	
68 Inf Regt HQ	8	-	59	-	
Spec Inf Regt HQ	8	-	59	-	
68 Inf Regt HQ	4	11	17	165	
Spec Inf Regt HQ	4	11	17	165	
11 Arty Regt HQ	1	2	19	6	
			3(51 Engr Bn)	9 (51 Engr Bn)	
				12 (other units)	
68 Inf Regt HQ	4	4		(Mortar coys, mortar pls & Spt coy secs - Mortar coys mortar pls, OCs and radiomen operators)	
Spec Inf Regt HQ	4	4			
68 Inf Regt HQ	3	6		(Gun coys, Gun pls & Sp coy Sec	
Spec Inf Regt HQ	3	6		(Gun coy & Gun pls OC	
68 Inf Regt HQ	1	1	3	12	
Spec Inf Regt HQ	1	1	3	12	
11 Arty Regt HQ	4	2	-	19 or 3	
11 Arty Regt HQ	21	18	117	177	
51 Engr Bn HQ	2	1	3	36 (from 68 Inf Regt)	
			3	36 (from Spec Inf Regt)	
			1	18 (from Arty Regt)	
51 Engr Bn HQ	1	1	2	2 (from 51 Engr Bn)	
			1	9 (from 68 Inf Regt)	
			1	- (from 11 Arty Regt)	
			-	9 (from Spec Inf Regt)	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

	COURSE	ORGANIZED BY	REPRESENTATIVES	
			OFFICE	NCOs
3.	In course on radio & telephone procedure (from 16 - 18 Oct)	51 Sigs Bn HQ	2	1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ORGANIZED BY	INSTRUCTORS		STUDENTS	
	OFFRS	NCOs	OFFRS	OEs
Procedure	51 Engr Bn HQ	2	1	6 - (From Engr Bn)
				1 (From 63 Inf Regt)
				1 (From Spec Inf Regt)
				4 2 (From 11 Army Regt)

1220

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 091.711/107 OCT-O 27 November 1944

SUBJECT: Progress Reports on Italian Combat Groups.

TO : President, Allied Commission
FOR: Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA)

1. It is requested that reports be made on the Italian Combat Groups in accordance with letter, Headquarters Allied Armies in Italy, File 1605/50/73/0(SD 1), dated 17 November 1944.

2. These reports should be submitted on the first and fifteenth of each month and a copy of the reports should be forwarded to the Director of Military Training and to this headquarters.

3. Reports by the Director of Military Training and this headquarters on training and equipping respectively will be forwarded to you for information, on the dates shown in paragraph 2 above.

By command of General WILSON:

R. H. PIESSE,
Captain, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General

6752

RESTRICTED

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

159

53 B.L.U.
Ref. A2 - 23
27 Nov 44.

Subject :- Weekly Progress Reports.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MMIA)

- - - - - - - - - - - - - -

1. Herewith weekly returns in respect of Combat Gp FOLGORE and Auxilliary Units attached to the Gp as at 1800 hours 25 Nov 44 as shown below :-

Appx 'A' - Strength return of Combat Group units.

Appx 'b' - Return of deficiency of specialist personnel of Combat Group.

Appx 'C' - Return of deficiency of equipment as rendered to HQ 3 District and AFHQ Q(AE) your HQ signal SS320 of 13 Nov refers.

Appx 'D' - Progress Report by GI 53 B.L.U.

Appx 'E' - Strength return of auxilliary units attached to Combat Group.

Appx 'F' - Return of deficiency of specialist personnel of auxilliary units attached to Combat Group.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

Circulate. G.
AQ.

See Thanks

6751

1222

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Weekly Progress R/ rt No. 3 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 26 Nov 44.

Appx 'A' to 53 RLU letter Ref Q11 -2 of 27 Nov 44.

1. Controlled Stores.
No issue of Q(AE) controlled stores has been made to the Combat Group.

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Shirts, angola, drab or A/L	2500
Web equipment c/w valise and pack	10000 sets
Draws, woollen	Nil
Greatcoats	9700
Boots	8000
Blankets	10100

Notes.

(a) All figures take into account auxilliary units to this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44. Total strength of auxilliary units at present attached to this Group, 450 all ranks.

3. Other G 1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)
Only G 1098 scale of signal equipment has been collected. Approx 90% of this equipment has now been collected and the most serious deficiencies are tradesmens kits (E.S., Dvr Mech, Linesmen, Mech, etc).

Lt. Col.
G.S.

6749

A 7 to 53 B.L.U. letter
Ref. A2 - 23
27 Nov.44.

Combat Group FOLGORE

Weekly Progress Report for week ending 1800 hrs Saturday 25 Nov.44

1. Organisation.

(a) Officers on W.E. of B.L.U. - Up to strength. No change since last report.

(b) Other Ranks on W.E. of B.L.U. - Certain deficiencies in personnel have been made good and the only outstanding ones after today, when 7 R.Sigs personnel and 1 clerk are expected, R.Sigs 3, clerks 1, BOWO 3, OR general duties 1, officers mess orderly 1 and ACC cook 1.

The most vital deficiency is the three BOWO who are urgently required. The deficiencies in clerks is likely to be made up by learners.

(c) Other Ranks Attached to BLU. - The most important requirement is six RAOC storemen who have not yet been released by 51 B.L.U.

(d) Combat Group - The strength of ORs is now satisfactory but officers are approximately 100 over strength.

2. Training.

(a) Training Team is now complete and are doing very useful work. DMT has promised to allow them to remain until the Group has been in the line for a few days at least. This is most satisfactory and there is no doubt that their services will be appreciated for as long as they can be spared to the Group.

(b) Training has started and this week should be reckoned as the date of commencement of individual training. Training is still held up, however, chiefly by lack of clothing and transport. The Grade III battle dress has proved most unsatisfactory and although much time has been spent by DADOS in the matter only about 50% of the Group have been fixed up with blouses and only about 25% with trousers. Other items of clothing are still outstanding and although the matter has been and is being energetically pursued with AFHQ and 3 District, the whole matter is most unsatisfactory and cannot but delay the date of readiness for war of the Group.

(c) Signals training.

The Signals School at Nocera, to which a 120 students from this Group were sent, was reported to be deficient of certain essential items of training equipment without which training could not proceed. A loan of equipment was made by this HQ to them and the situation is now reported to be in hand but it is felt that students should not have been received until the school was in a position to commence training. A visit is being made to the school within the next few days to verify the facts reported and to see if the training is satisfactory.

(d) Training equipment.

The hand over of training stores from 51 B.L.U. is now as complete and satisfactory as possible, but a few deficiencies exist and more mortars and bren guns would be welcome.

3. Re-equipping.

The situation with regard to clothing, equipment and vehicles has been reported frequently for the last two months and is well known to all concerned. I have nothing further to add except to repeat that the situation is still most unsatisfactory and the date of readiness for war of the Group.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

approximately 100 over strength.

2. Training.

(a) Training Team is now complete and are doing very useful work. D&T has promised to allow them to remain until the Group has been in the line for a few days at least. This is most satisfactory and there is no doubt that their services will be appreciated for as long as they can be spared to the Group.

(b) Training has started and this week should be reckoned as the date of commencement of individual training. Training is still held up, however, chiefly by lack of clothing and transport. The Grade III battle dress has proved most unsatisfactory and although much time has been spent by DADOS in the matter only about 50% of the Group have been fixed up with blouses and only about 25% with trousers. Other items of clothing are still outstanding and although the matter has been and is being energetically pursued with AFHQ and 3 District, the whole matter is most unsatisfactory and cannot but delay the date of readiness for war of the Group.

(c) Signals training.

The Signals School at Nocera, to which a 120 students from this Group were sent, was reported to be deficient of certain essential items of training equipment without which training could not proceed. A loan of equipment was made by this HQ to them and the situation is now reported to be in hand but it is felt that students should not have been received until the school was in a position to commence training. A visit is being made to the school within the next few days to verify the facts reported and to see if the training is satisfactory.

(d) Training equipment.

The hand over of training stores from 51 B.L.U. is now as complete and satisfactory as possible, but a few deficiencies exist and more mortars and bren guns would be welcome.

3. Re-equipping.

The situation with regard to clothing, equipment and vehicles has been reported frequently for the last two months and is well known to all concerned. I have nothing further to add except to repeat that the situation is still most unsatisfactory and the date of readiness for war of the Group must be put back depending on the date that the Group is clothed sufficiently to undergo training and sufficient vehicles are made available to take on the training of the large number of drivers required.

6750

4. Morale.

No appreciable change but demonstration platoons which are being trained by the training team are reported as being unable to carry out the exercises satisfactorily owing to the small ration scale. It does not seem possible to issue a satisfactory breakfast out of the present ration and as the last meal of the day is eaten at about 1700 hours, morning training is carried out under a severe handicap.

G. H. L. Marks.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6758

Sl Sec.
294

WP

1. [illegible] dated [illegible] 19th Nov. 1944, on [illegible]

6748

DISTRIBUTION:
H.Q. No. 3 District.
Q (Ad) A.P.M.G., C.M.F.
Land Forces Sub-Com. A.C. (M.M.I.s.)

ANNEXURE 'A' to AFHQ/3193/8(Ad)
d. 2/11/44.

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT "GROUP A" Detachments "KATIE" 19/11/44.

1. Deficiencies advise.

ITEM:	ESTABLISHMENT.	ON HAND.	DEMAND.
Cable Layer Mechanical.	1	1	1
Barrow Drum Mk 11.	4	4	4
Wireless stations No. 9. Cpts. stations less batteries.	NIL	4	4.
Wireless sets No. 19. F/Ground Cpts. stations less batteries.	14	14	14
Wireless stations No. 11 Cpts. stations less batteries.	NIL	37	37
Wireless sets No. 48.	NIL	104	104
Generators Class 3.	11	12	12
Charging sets 1200 watt.	7	8	8
" " 300 "	37	33	33
Reception sets R.107.	4	5	5
Switchboards 33 10 Line.	50	41	41
Superimposing Units 3 Transformer Coils 1:1.	1	6	6
Fullerphones Mk 1.	48	10	NIL
Telephones 3 Mk V.	40	42	42
" 3a	175	180	180
Test Frames 40 Pair.	30	30	30
Batteries Secondary Portable 6V 100/143 AH	1	1	1
" " " 6V 170 AH	56	440	440
Cable Electric 33 single.	NIL	84	84
" 110 "	96 Miles.	40 Miles	40 Miles
" 1103 Twisted.	426 "	40 "	40 "
Apparatus 3A No. 2.	45 "	40 "	40 "
" " No. 3.	30	84	84
Switchboards F & P 40 Line.	14	14	14
Above-mentioned items released under Re-Release Note No. 4190/379.	1	1	1
Augers Earth 8 x 2m.	26		NIL
Camouflet equipment Mk 1.	6 sets		3 sets
Gun 25 Pdr. & ancillary stores.	32	1	1

2. Shortage (details of major deficiencies.)

Greatcoats.	6000	(Increase in strength.
~~Armours (Italian) Body.~~	~~13000~~	~~(No. 4 Torsions Fully received)~~
Braces 36"	4500	
Housewives.	9000	
Socks Worsted.	14000	
Sheets Drawn.	9000	
Tins Mess.	9000	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6747

6747

Reception sets B.107.	4	5	5	
Switchboards US 10 Line.	50	21	21	
Superimposing Units 3 Transformer Coils Tot.	1	6	6	
Fullerphones Mk 1.	28	10	Nil.	
Telephones 3 Mk V.	40	42	42	
" as Ea	175	180	180	
Test Frames 40 Pair.	30	30	30	
Batteries Secondary Portable 6V 100/145 aH	1	1	1	
" " " 6V 170 aH	56	240	240	
Cable Electric D8 Single.	334	84	84	
#110 "	30 Miles.	20 Miles	20 Miles	20 Miles
#1108 Twisted.	225 "	20 "	20 "	"
Apparatus A No. 2.	45 "	20 "	20 "	"
" " No. 3.	30	24	24	
Switchboards F & F 40 Line.	14	14	14	
Above mentioned stores released under Roc Release Note No. 4194/317.	1	1	1	
Augers Earth 8 y in.	26		Nil.	
Camouflat equipment Mk 1.	6 sets		3 sets	
Gun 25 Pdr. & Ancillary stores.	32	1	1	

2. Deficits (details of major deficiencies.)

Greatcoats.	6000	(Increase in strength.
~~Improvs Cellon Sheet.~~	~~12000~~	~~(No. 4 Troops not required)~~
Dresses 36"	4500	
Housewives.	9000	
Socks Worsted.	14000	
Shorts Ground.	9000	
Vins Mess.	9000	
Boots.	9000	(2nd pr. not intended for)

3. ~~Stock Position~~ Stores (details of major deficiencies.)

not yet authorised to draw.

what?

C.W. Gordon Major.
(C.W. Gordon)
A.A.A.G. 3d B.A.D.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

( ) Appx 'A' to 53 HLU
letter Ref. Q11 - 1
of 20 Nov. 44.

Weekly Progress Report No. 2 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 19 Nov 44.

1. Controlled Stores.

No issue of Q(AE) controlled stores has been made to the Combat Gp.

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Shirts, Angola, Drab or A/L	2500
Web Equipment c/w Valise and Pack	10000 sets
Drawrs, Woollen	20000 sets
Greatcoats	9700
Boots	8000
Blankets	10100

Notes.

(a) All figures take into account auxiliary units to this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with MMA letter B/G/29/25 of 26 Oct. 44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to this Gp, 400 all ranks.

(b) Boots - deficiency figures calculated on scale of two pairs per man. 10000 boots collected from Ord depot found to be unserviceable and have been returned - see this HQ letter ref Q1-35 of 20 Nov. 44.

(c) Blankets - deficiency figures calculated on scale of 2 per man.

3. Other G 1098 Stores. (Details of major deficiencies) 6746

This Gp is deficient of approximately 30% of its G 1098 scale Signal equipment. It is understood that this deficiency will be collected within the next week.

Lt. Col.
G. S.

COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE.

Appx 'D' to 53 BLU
letter Ref. A2 - 21
of 20 Nov. 44.

Weekly Progress Report for week ending 1800 hours Saturday 18 Nov.44.

1. Organisation.

(a) Officers on W.E. of B.L.U. Up to strength. No change since last report.

(b) Other Ranks on W.E. of B.L.U. Officers' Mess orderly struck of strength as unsuitable. Clerks RASC 2 and R.Sigs 12 still deficient.

(c) Other Ranks attached to B.L.U.
RAOC Storemen - 4
RE NCO Instructors - 2
REME Cfn Instructors - 1

(d) Combat Group. Officers especially and some other ranks still over strength as per attached state - see Appx 'A'.

2. Training.

(a) Training Team. The Training Team is now complete except for one officer who is, however, expected to join shortly.

(b) Courses and Training.

(i) The Carrier Cadre Course has been completed. Results were most successful and all students were very keen and made excellent progress. Sufficient instructors are now available to commence training in units.

(ii) Platoon Weapons Cadre Course has been completed and unit weapon training will start within the next few days.

(iii) Driving and maintenance is being carried out but training is being restricted owing to lack of vehicles.

(iv) The SOIII R.Sigs has been away for a considerable time on collection of stores and four days were spent on a Signals meeting in Rome. It is suggested that unless these meetings are absolutely essential and must be held in Rome, they should be avoided or held at a location nearer the Combat Groups, otherwise signal training which depends largely on one man will suffer.

(v) RA Training - satisfactory except for lack of vehicles.

6745

(c) Training Equipment. Major deficiencies in training equipment are still both 2" and 3" mortars and 8 carriers. Wheeled vehicles are still totally insufficient to train the large number of drivers required.

3. Re-equipping.

(a) Clothing. The clothing situation is still unsatisfactory. The Grade III battle dress is not good and a satisfactory issue down to all individuals has still a long way to go. The difficulties which have to be overcome by the small RAOC staff of the BLU in the issue of this type of clothing are that the clothing is unmarked with regard to size, a large proportion of the clothing is quite unserviceable, the Italians are very slow and although it is quite impossible to make complete re-checks of their rejects it is essential to carry out considerable supervision and the whole business of issuing and checking rejects has to be repeated with subsequent issues of clothing issued in replacement of rejects.

New boots up to scale of one pair per man hve [illegible] which were drawn as

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(b) Courses and Training.

(i) The Carrier Cadre Course has been completed. Results were most successful and all students were very keen and made excellent progress.

Sufficient instructors are now available to commence training in units.

(ii) Platoon Weapons Cadre Course has been completed and unit weapon training will start within the next few days.

(iii) Driving and maintenance is being carried out but training is being restricted owing to lack of vehicles.

(iv) The SOIII R.Sigs has been away for a considerable time on collection of stores and four days were spent on a Signals meeting in Rome. It is suggested that unless these meetings are absolutely essential and must be held in Rome, they should be avoided or held at a location nearer the Combat Groups, otherwise signal training which depends largely on one man will suffer.

(v) RA Training - satisfactory except for lack of vehicles.

6745

(c) Training Equipment. Major deficiencies in training equipment are still both 2" and 3" mortars and 8 carriers. Wheeled vehicles are still totally insufficient to train the large number of drivers required.

3. Re-equipping.

(a) Clothing. The clothing situation is still unsatisfactory. The Grade III battle dress is not good and a satisfactory issue down to all individuals has still a long way to go. The difficulties which have to be overcome by the small RAOC staff of the BLU in the issue of this type of clothing are that the clothing is unmarked with regard to size, a large proportion of the clothing is quite unserviceable, the Italians are very slow and although it is quite impossible to make complete re-checks of their rejects it is essential to carry out considerable supervision and the whole business of issuing and checking rejects has to be repeated with subsequent issues of clothing issued in replacement of rejects.

New boots up to scale of one pair per man hve been issued, the second pair is still outstanding. 10.000 boots, which were drawn as rebuilt boots and found completely unserviceable, have been returned with the consequent loss of time and use of already overworked transport.

An issue of blankets to the scale of one per man has been made but a proportion of these are not serviceable.

The situation with regard to socks, pullovers, and anklets is satisfactory and about 70% of the scale of shirts up to two per man has been met.

Groundsheets have come in and are being checked.

(b) Vehicles. The vehicle situation is still practically the same and an initial issue of vehicles as represented by Major General MMIA cannot arrive too soon. The order by MMIA for this Group to collect blankets from Bari and to deliver them to TEANO creates a very difficult situation and cannot be complied with without delaying essential training and collection of stores.

Cancelled.

...../4. Morale.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

4. Morale. No change except that the inadequate ration scale is causing some concern amongst the officers and discontentment amongst the men. All stores, clothing and vehicles are only obtained after considerable delay and are then often found unsatisfactory. This creates frustration and disappointment which affects every man in the group as well as the HQ.

5. Communications. A sixty ft Bailey bridge has been erected over the PONTE gap by the group engineers. This bridging material is part of the training RE stores and will be withdrawn for training when conditions allow which may be in about 3 weeks time when the civilian bridge may be completed.

Gund.

L. H. Morris

Lt. Col.
G.S.

They aren't doing any work now.
so what about Padre on

Appx 'E' to 53 BLU letter A2 - 21 of 20 Nov. 44.

ciliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

Weekly strength return as at 1800 hrs Saturday 18 Nov. 44.

Serial	Unit	W.E.		Posted Strength		Taken on Strength during previous 7 days		Struck of Strength during previous 7 days		Strength present with Unit				Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)
		Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	Ors	
1	316 Section Carabinieri	2	50	1	34				17	1	33			
2	2 Fd Pk Coy Engineers	5	129	6	112		3		5	6	85			
3	232 Fd Hospital - Medical	7	58	7	61		7			7	51			
4	866 Fd Hospital - Medical	7	58	7	59					5	44			
5	2 Fd Bakery - S&T	1	31	1	35		5			1	35			
6.	131 Fd Surgical Unit - Medical	3	23	3	17					2	17			
7.	Italian Increment to 53 B.L.U.	1	23	1	24					1	24			
8.	Italian Increment to D Training Team (Inf)		4		4						4			8+13
9.	Totals	26	376	26	346	-	15	-	22	23	293			

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Progress Reports Q

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 2
27 Nov 44.

To :- H.Q., 3 District.
- - - - - - - - -
AFHQ Q(AE)
Ord
- - - - - -

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of the 2 Nov 44.

2. Herewith weekly report on the state of equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as requested.

6742

Lt. Col.
G.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Appx '1' to 53 B,L.U. letter
Ref. A2 - 21 of
20 Nov.44.

Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE

Weekly return of deficiency of specialist personnel as at 1800 hrs.
Saturday 18 Nov.44

Serial	Specialists Trades.	316 Sec. Carabinieri	2 Fd Pk Coy	232 Fd Hosp	2 Fd Bakery	131 Fd Surgical Unit	Italian Inc to B.L.U.	Italian Inc to D Training Team	866 Hosp	Totals
1	Drivers		10		1	3			2	16
2	Smiths		1							1
5	Motor Mechanics									-
6	Electricians		3			1				4
7	Pump Operators		2							2
9	Artists		1							1
10	Plumbers									-
13	Motor Cyclists									-
21	Director Operators		1							1
24	Armourers									-
25	Armourer Mechanics		1							1
26	Carpenters									-
27	Mechanics					1				1
31	Medical Orderlies		1	2		10			12	25
	Totals	-	20	2	1	15	-	-	14	52

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT:- Training Report

52 British Liaison Unit.
CMF.
26 Nov 44

To:- Land Forces Sub Comm AC
(MMIA)

A/7/27

Reference your S/G/29/24 para' 1(c) or 28 Sep 44.

1. As for last report.

2. See attached reports. In addition Infy weapons training is making satisfactory progress, and two demonstration platoons are under training.

3. No change.

4. Remains fair.

Lt. Col,
G.S.O.I.

FME/WN.

1 2 3 6

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LEGNANO Gruppo

Signal Training. Week ending 25 Nov 44

1) Training carried out

(a) Genio

i Wireless practice each day
ii Lectures on Thursday Friday and Saturday on the message form and organization of the Signal Office.
iii Practical battery charging
iv Morse practice
v Instruction in line testing and exchange maintenance.

(b) Others

i Wireless practice each day
ii Instruction in instruments D Mk V, 10-line exchange and fullerphone.
iii Morse Practice

2) Progress made

(a) Genio

i Wireless fair
ii Very satisfactory foundations established in Signal Office organisation
iii Remainder satisfactory

(b) Others

i Good
ii Artillery learning a good deal about the siting of wireless sets.

Rhoold Adams

Captain
S.O.R.Sigs.

26 Nov 44

6739

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT :- Progress Report per Week Ending 25 Nov 44

155

52 Brit Liaison Unit
CMF
26 Nov 44 1000hrs
RE/01/2/12

GSO I 52 BLU

1. 3 Artieri Coy

6738

(a) One pl completed initial Br. training as follows :-

1 day Construct Single Single 70'0 Span
1 day " Double Single 70'0 "
1 day " Triple Single 70'0 "
2 days Triple Storey Construction
1 day Dismantling Triple Storey and layout site for Bailey Crib piers.
1 day Construct and Dismantle 30 ft Bailey Crib pier.

(b) One pl completed part Mine Warfare and Demolitions Trg, and now completed first three days Bailey Trg as follows :-

1 day Construct Single Single 70'0 Span
1 day " Double Single 70'0 "
½ day " Triple Single 70'0 "

(c) Remainder of Coy completed 4 weeks training in Mines and Demolitions.

2. 51 Artieri Coy

Completed 2 weeks Mine Warfare and Demolitions training. Training delayed by Coy being engaged on reconstruction of Bridges and Roads in PIEDIMONTE and ALIFE area.

C. Dawes.

Captain
S.O.R.E.

CID/aa

1256

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

155

Subject: Progress Report for week ending 25 Nov 44.

52 Brit Liaison Unit,
CMF.
26 Nov 44.

RA/3/3.

To: G.S.O.I. 52 BLU.

Training. 11th Italian Army Regt.

1. Individual training continued during the week 19/25 Nov 6737

2. All Battery Commanders attended during the week a Senior Officers' course at the RA Training team Italian forces.

3. I gave a series of lectures on Troop deployment to GPOs and troop officers during the week. Officers who had already attended a course with the RA Training team asked intelligent questions and it is hoped that satisfactory results will ensue from the mobile training which commences next week.

4. A course for all Regimental drivers on maintenance and the task system is being held during the week 26 Nov/2 Dec.

5. Four No 6 A directors have been released which should assist specialist training very considerably.

D.B.COLLENETTE
Major,
S.O.II.R.A.

DBC/NS.

1239

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Progress Report for week ending 25 Nov 44.

154

52 Brit Liaison Unit,
CMF.
26 Nov 44.

To: G.S.O.I.

EME/1

Training of Italian Workshops personnel has not yet started as no British tools and equipment have been issued.

6736

E.J.B. Mann.

Captain,
SCREME.

EJB/NS

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

153

SUBJECT :- Weekly Progress Report

DADOS, 52 BLU,
ORD/4/15
26 Nov 44

GSO 2, 52 BLU.

Ref your memo dated 25 Nov 44.

1. TRAINING CARRIED OUT.

A circular covering the procedure of demanding and disposal of Stores has been forwarded to the Commissariatto Branch of the Gruppo. A lecture based on this circular was given to representatives of all units by Magg. SCOPPETONE on the morning of 25th Nov 44.

2. PROGRESS MADE

The preparation of Indents and collection of Ordnance Stores is proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

WHY/BB

G.W. Gordon Major,
(G.W. GORDON)
DADOS 52 BLU.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

PROGRESS REPORT WEEK ENDING 25 NOV 44. ST/7/4 /52

"Q" Staff

Settling in to the run of "Q" staff duties on British lines. Operational "Q" Admin sitrep produced during week for use in battle.

"S.T" Coy

Lectures on S.T. duties in the field continue. It is impossible to carry out night driving, convoy etc. exercises at the moment for two reasons, one the atrocious roads in the area - and two, the present heavy commitment of the transport company.

This matter will be rectified as soon as 1st line transport is drawn for the group.

6734

Major,
DADST.

OMF
26 Nov 44

1242

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT :- Weekly Progress Report

157

52 BLU,
ORD/2/3,
28 Nov 44.

HQ No 3 District.

Herewith Weekly Progress Report as at 26th Nov 44as per Instructions received from AFHQ Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) dated 2nd Nov 44.

CMF
WHY/BB

Major,
(G.W. GORDON)
DADOS 52 BLU

6733

Copy to :- Q(AE), AFHQ, CMF.
HQ Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA).

DISTRIBUTION
HQ No 3 District.
Q(AE)AFHQ.
Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA)

APPENDIX 'A' to AFHQ/9193 /Q(AE) dtd 2 Nov 44

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT 'Gruppo di Combattimento LEGNANO' 26 Nov 44.

1. CONTROLLED STORES

Item	Entitlement	Released	Drawn
Cable Layer Mechanical	1	1	1
Barrows 1 Drum WD Mk II	4	4	4
Wireless Stations No 9 Compl Stns less batteries	NIL	4	NIL
Wireless Sets No 19 T/Ground Compl Stations less batteries	14	14	14
Wireless Stations No 11 Compl Stns less batteries	NIL	57	57
Wireless Sets No 48	NIL	104	105
Wavemeters Class D	11	12	12
Charging Sets 1260 watts	7	8	6
" " 300 "	57	53	53
Reception Sets R.107	4	5	5
Switchboards UC 10 line	50	21	21
Superimposing Units 3 transformer	1	6	6
Coils 161	28	10	NIL
Fullerphones Mk I	40	42	42
Telephones D Mk 9 5	176	180	160
" EE 8a	30	30	30
Test Frames 40 pair	1	1	1
Batteries Secondary Portable 6 V 100/125AH 56	240	240	
" " " 6V 170 AH	NIL	84	84
Cable Electric D 8 Single	96 miles	20 miles	20 miles
" " W110 "	226 "	20 miles	20 miles
" " W1108 Twisted	45 "	20 miles	20 miles
Appabatus CD No 2	36	24	24
Apparatus CD No 3	14	14	14
Switchboards F & F 40 Line	1	1	1
Above items released under DOs Release No Siga/3179			
Augers Earth M 9 in	26		NIL
Camouflet Equipment Mk I	6		3 set
Gun 25 pdr and Ancillary Stores	32	1	1

2. CLOTHING (Details of Major Deficiencies)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

" " 300 "	57	53	53
Reception Sets R.107	4	5	5
Switchboards UC 10 line	50	21	21
Superimposing Units 3 transformer	1	6	6
Coils 161	28	10	NIL
Fullerphones Mk I	40	42	42
Telephones D Mk 4 5	176	180	160
" EE 8a	30	30	30
Test Frames 40 pair	1	1	1
Batteries Secondary Portable 6 V 100/125AH 56		240	240
" " " 6V 170 AH	NIL	84	84
Cable Electric D 8 Single	96 miles	20 miles	20 miles
" " W110 "	226 "	20 miles	20 miles
" " W1108 Twisted	45 "	20 miles	20 miles
Apparatus CD No 2	36	24	24
Apparatus CD No 3	14	14	14
Switchboards F & F 40 Line	1	1	1
Above items released under DCs Release No Sigs/3179			
Augers Earth M 9 in	26		NIL
Camouflet Equipment Mk I	6		3 sets
Gun 25 pdr and Ancillary Stores	32	1	1

2. CLOTHING (Details of Major Deficiencies)

6732

Greatcoats	6000 ~~(Increase in Strength)~~
Braces 36 in	4,500
Housewifes	9000
Socks Worsted	14000
Sheets Ground	9000
Boots	9000

OTHER G.1098 STORES (Details of Major Deficiencies)

Not yet authorized to draw.

Major,
(G.W. GORDON),
DADOS 52 BLU.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1245

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

150

SUBJECT: Progress Reports

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. S/G/29/32
30 Nov 44

TO : 52, 53, 54 MLUs

Copy to: MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Attached is Appendix "B" to AAI's 1605/50/73/G(SD1) of 17 November.

2. You are requested to submit to this Hq, in triplicate, a ten-daily report on the lines of this Appendix. The first report should show the position as on 1 December.

3. This report, together with those you are being asked to supply on equipment and training for AFHQ and DAT (Copies of which please send to MMIA), will take the place of all reports and returns being sent to MMIA at present.

4. On the attached Appendix your return under Part I should show the W.E. of each unit and the present strength in figures and as a percentage of the W.E.. The anticipated date of completion will be filled in by MMIA.

5. Part II (e) will also be completed by MMIA, but you should indicate any action being taken within the Group.

W. Pidding - Colonel
Major General
M. M. I. A.

6731

Subject :- Weekly Report

SECRET 149

51 British Liaison Unit

G 6

To :- HQ, MMIA

S/Sec. 29/32

28/11

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44, herewith my eighth weekly report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memo on the strength situation as App I to this report.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry.

Trg has been largely devoted to revision this week. In addition every bn. has run a "relief of a unit in the line" exercise. These have gone reasonably well under supervision. The 22nd Regt have pulled up a bit as regards the No. of men who have fired their weapons but this Regt still lags behind the 21st Regt. The course for carriers and mortars at FRIGENTO which was to have continued until the end of the week has now ended in view of the move.

(ii) Arty

Despite annoying obstruction by the Canadian R.T.D. at AVELLINO all Fd Btys have fired their guns this week. The A/Tk and A.A. Btys will also have fired by the end of the week. The complete lack of survey eqpt. has hampered work and the absence of lamps has prevented any night work.

(iii) Engineers

Pl trg has continued this week. One Coy has completed its weapon trg. A course in Mines and Explosives started on Nov 20 for Pioneer Pls of Infantry at the R.E.T.D. 2 officers and 16 N.C.Os. of the Genio also attended.

(iv) Signals

A Gruppo Signal excercise was held on Nov 21. For a first performance it was not more fantastic than was expected. All were very keen and after scenes of unparalleled confusion for the first hour and a half communication of a sort was established. Officers showed a marked reluctance to speak on the set themselves and, when induced to, broke most rules of security. However improvement was visible by the end of the exercise and all commanders appreciated the importance of getting the communication system right. We shall hold more of these exercises. The Arty signals are good and have been using wireless for communication between Regtl HQ and the Practice Camp satisfactorily all week. The distance is 50 Km.

3. RE - EQUIPPING

6730

The tool situation is serious. The D.D.M.E. of 5 Dist

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

weapons but this Regt still [illegible]
for carriers and mortars at FRIGENTO which was to have continued until the end of the week has now ended in view of the move.

(ii) Arty

Despite annoying obstruction by the Canadian R.T.D. at AVELLINO all Fd Btys have fired their guns this week. The A/Tk and A.A. Btys will also have fired by the end of the week. The complete lack of survey eqpt. has hampered work and the absence of lamps has prevented any night work.

(iii) Engineers

Pl trg has continued this week. One Coy has completed its weapon trg. A course in Mines and Explosives started on Nov 20 for Pioneer Pls of Infantry at the R.E.T.D. 2 officers and 16 N.C.Os. of the Genio also attended.

(iv) Signals

A Gruppo Signal excercise was held on Nov 21. For a first performance it was not more fantastic than was expected. All were very keen and after scenes of unparalleled confusion for the first hour and a half communication of a sort was established. Officers showed a marked reluctance to speak on the set themselves and, when induced to, broke most rules of security. However improvement was visible by the end of the exercise and all commanders appreciated the importance of getting the communication system right. We shall hold more of these exercises. The Arty signals are good and have been using wireless for communication between Regtl HQ and the Practice Camp satisfactorily all week. The distance is 50 Km.

6730

3. RE - EQUIPPING

The tool situation is serious. The D.D.M.E. of 3 Dist is, I understand, taking this matter up. It has - of course - been laboriously and repeatedly stressed to Q (AE) at AFHQ. As regards other equipment the Gruppo is roughly 90% equipped.

4. MORALE

Remains high

5. GENERAL

General BERARDI visited the Gruppo this week. He was - I believe - satisfied with what he saw. I spoke to him about Col. SILVESTRI the Comd 23 Regt. It has been decided to retain this officer as no better starter is available at the moment.

This report is very brief this week as the Gruppo is in the throes of the move.

Lieut Colonel
General Staff

Field
24 Nov 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1248

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Progress Report No 8

Week ending 24 Nov 44

Strengths.

Although the number of absentees has again crept up over 100 the general situation is satisfactory.
The posted strength of the Div is almost exactly at WE plus 5% Rfts.

Leave has shewn a further decrease but it is doubtful if all men at pbesent on leave will return before the div moves.

R Bostaleh

Major.
DAA & QMG

Field.
25 Nov 44
RWH/FEM.

1249

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LRKB V MEDY NR 75 X QMI IATE X QVR3
FROM DMT ADNAP 221200A
TO 52 BLU 53 BLU E BLU
INFO HQ MMIA
QQ X GG-- BT
DMT /215
RESTRICTED . SEND PROGRESS REPORT ON TRG TO TIS DIRECTORATE IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE FOLLOWIMG HEADINGS . FIRST GENERAL PROGRESS MADE TO DATE IN EACH ARM . SECOND STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN . THIRD BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED . FOURTH COURSES AND SPECIAL TRG COMPLETED . FIFTH ANY SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED EG TRG AREAS TRG AMN . FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON TRG REPORTS AND PROGRAMMES WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY

TI T920XXX
THI 092;
SENT NR 75 FB B2
RECD NR 75 221230A

8/Sec 22/11 17/22 29/32

6728

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

12/22

Land forces 147

N40/22

C/1533

OP

4 Sec 22/11

[redacted]

LRGB V HEDY HG 76 IMMEDIATZ QVR4

FROM BMT ADNAP 220200A

TO 52 BLU W53 BLU E BLU

INFO HQ MMIA
QQX GR-- DT
DMT/215
RESTRICTED . SEND PROGRESS REPORT ON TRG TO THIS DIRECTORATE IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS . FIRST GENERAL PROGRESS MMADE TO DATE IN EACH ARM . SECOND STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN . THIRD BALANE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED . FOURTH COURSES AND SPECIAL TRG COMPLETED . FIFTH ANY SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED EG TRG AREA TRG AMN . FURTMER INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REPORTS LAND PROGRAMMES WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY
THI 0550
SENT NR 76 FB AR
RECD NR 76(221034A ON AR

WP

6727

22 10 40

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Returns.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.
URU/4/13.
9 Nov. 1944.

Land Forces Sub-Com. A.C.,
(M.M.L.A.)

Reference your Signal 33320 dated 13th Nov. 1944.

1. Attached herewith, copy of Weekly Progress Report dated 12th Nov. as requested.

WHY/MSD.

Capt. Gordon Major.
(G.M. GORDON)
D.A.D.O.S. 52 B.L.U.

DISTRIBUTION:
H.Q. No. 3 District.
Q(as), A.F.H.Q., C.M.F.

APPENDIX 'A' to AFHQ/9193/Q(as)
d. 2/11/44.

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT "Gruppo Di Combattimento "LEGNANO" 12/11/44.

1. CONTROLLED STORES.

ITEM.	ENTITLEMENT.	RELEASED	DRAWN.
Cable Layer Mechanical.	1	1	1
Barrows Drum WD Mk II	4	4	4.
Wireless Stations No. 9 Opte. Stations less Batteries.	NIL	4	NIL
Wireless Sets No. 19 T/Ground Opte. Stations less Batteries.	14	14	14
Wireless Stations No. 11. Opte Stations less Batteries.	NIL	57	57
Wireless Sets No. 46.	NIL	104	104
Wavemeters Class D	11	12	12
Charging Sets 1200 Watt.	7	8	8
" " 300 Watt.	57	53	53
Reception Sets R.107	4	5	5
Switchboards UC 10 Line.	50	21	21
Superimposing Units 3 Transformer. Coils 161	1	6	6
Fullerphones Mk 1.	28	10	NIL
Telephones D Mk V.	40	42	42
" Ms 8A	176	180	180
Test Frames 40 Pair.	30	30	30
Batteries Secondary Portable 6V 100/125 AH	1	1	1
" " " 6V 170 AH.	56	240	240
Cable Electric D8 Single.	NIL	34	34
W110 "	96 Miles.	20 Miles	20 Miles.
W 110B Twisted.	226 "	20 "	20 "
Apparatus CL No. 2.	45 "	20 "	20 "
" " No. 3.	36	24	24
Switchboards F & F 40 Line.	14	14	14
	1	1	1

Abovementioned items released under Ord Release Note No. Sigs/3179.

Augers Earth M 9 in.	26		NIL
Camouflet Equipment Mk I.	6 sets		3 sets.

2. CLOTHING. (Details of Major Deficiencies)

Greatcoats.	5800	
Drawers Woollen Short.	18000	(No. 4 Vouchers 9820 received)
Braces 36"	4500	
Housewives.	9000	
Socks Worsted.	27000	
Sheets Ground.	9000	
Tins Mess.	9000	
Boots.	9000	(2nd pr. not indented for)

6725

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Superimposing Units 3 Transformer.	30	21	21
Coils 161	1	6	6
Fullerphones Mk I.	28	10	NIL
Telephones D Mk V.	40	42	42
" Mk 8A	176	180	180
Test Frames 46 Pair.	30	30	30
Batteries Secondary Portable 6V 100/125 AH	1	1	1
" " " 6V 170 AH.	56	240	240
Cable Electric D8 Single.	NIL	84	84
#110 "	96 Miles.	20 Miles	20 Miles.
# 110B Twisted.	226 "	20 "	20 "
Apparatus DL No. 2.	45 "	20 "	20 "
" " No. 3.	30	24	24
Switchboards # & # 40 Line.	14	14	14
	1	1	1

abovementioned items released under DDS Release Note No. Sigs/3179.

Augers Earth M 9 in.	26	NIL
Camouflet Equipment Mk I.	6 sets	3 sets.

2. CLOTHING. (Details of Major Deficiencies)

Greatcoats.	5800	
Drawers Woollen Short.	18000	(No. 4 Vouchers 9820 received)
Braces 36"	4500	
Housewives.	9000	
Socks Worsted.	27000	
Sheets Ground.	9000	
Tins Mess.	9000	
Boots.	9000	(2nd pr. not indented for)

6725

3. OTHER G.1098 STORES. (Details of Major Deficiencies)

Not yet authorised to draw.

R.C.G. Gordon Major.
(G.W. GORDON)
D.A.D.O.S. 52 S.L.U.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

11254

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

145-

S/Sec
22/11

SECRET

SUBJECT : Weekly Progress Report

50 Brit Liaison Unit
A/1/26
29/32
19 Nov 44

HQ, MMIA

Ref your S/G/29/24 dated 28 Sep 44.

Herewith progress report for W/E 18 Nov 44.

1. Organisation complete. State of readiness up to schedule, with exception of MT, of which you already possess full details separately. See my GS383 dated 19 Nov 44.

2. Training. See reports on each arm attached as appendices "A", "B", and "C".

3. Re-equipping. Up to schedule with exception of MT VCR and BLR of which you also possess details seperately. Mortars of all kinds still 50% deficient and N/A.

4. Morale generally. It is hoped that a move to a new area coupled with re-opening of leave will materially raise morale. My previous warnings on leave and absenteeism are reiterated.

Lt col
GS

CMF
ARCS/SYB

6724

APPENDIX "A"

SUBJECT : Trg Progress Report

54 Trg Increment
BLU

G I, 50 BLU

19 Nov 44

Herewith Trg Report as required for w/e 18 Nov 44.

1. Trg during the past week consisted of Bn Exercise, Loading of trucks, PIAT Firing, CMTC day's course on Snipers, Coy Exercise, and Pnr Trg at CAPUA.

2. Bn Exercise.
These are still very weak. Procedure and planning has much to be desired. It is hoped that after the Div discussion on the ground that the method of a co-ordinated fire plan is now understood.

3. Loading of Trucks
This was not done by every bn, but there appears to be no problems as bns which did this managed to get all their G1098 on the trucks.

4. PIAT Firing.
The CMTC Tanks were used for PIAT firing. Each regt had two days on this range and the firing was very satisfactory, and the results were very good.

5. Snipers Day.
Each Bn sent one sjt to this course and one offr from the div attended. The day was well worth it and the students returned well pleased. It is hoped that these sjts will be able to instruct Bn Snipers in the near future.

6. Coy Exercises.
Pl Comds still do not appreciate the coy picture. Coy Comds seem to understand the handling of their coys. These exercises were carried out without firing.

7. Pnr Trg - CAPUA.
A four day course was arranged with RETD CAPUA. No results are yet known. All pnrs (assault) attended from the div.

8. General.
The regt sup gps fired 3" Mortars and results were good.
The Thursday Trg Conference was well worth while, it is hoped that trg will be discussed in future in the same way.

(sgd) MM Davie, Maj.
G II(Trg)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. Loading of Trucks
This was not done by every bn, but there appears to be no problems as bns which did this managed to get all their G1098 on the trucks.

4. PIAT Firing.
The CMTC Tanks were used for PIAT firing. Each regt had two days on this range and the firing was very satisfactory, and the results were very good.

5. Snipers Day.
Each Bn sent one sjt to this course and one offr from the div attended. The day was well worth it and the students returned well pleased. It is hoped that these sjts will be able to instruct Bn Snipers in the near future.

6. Coy Exercises.
Pl Comds still do not appreciate the coy picture. Coy Comds seem to understand the handling of their coys. These exercises were carried out without firing.

7. Pnr Trg - CAPUA.
A four day course was arranged with RETD CAPUA. No results are yet known. All pnrs (assault) attended from the div.

8. General.
The regt sup gps fired 3" Mortars and results were good.
The Thursday Trg Conference was well worth while, it is hoped that trg will be discussed in future in the same way.

(sgd) MM Davie, Maj.
G II(Trg)

6723

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

APPENDIX "B".

REPORT ON THE STATE OF TRAINING.

35 ARTY REGT. 18 Nov. 44.

40 M.M. Battery.

All the guns have been exchanged for British guns with Stiffkey Sticks. All the new guns are now ready to fire, and the Battery have shown great enthusiasm and initiative over their work in getting them ready.
Maintenance of vehicles and guns is satisfactory.

17 Pdr Battery.

Training in co-operation with the infantry is continuing.
Camouflage is greatly improved.
Maintenance of guns is excellent.
Maintenance of vehicles has shown some improvement.

25 Pdr Batteries.

Shooting in conjunction with infantry exercises has continued. The work at the gun end has been very satisfactory. Communications, especially line laying and maintenance are much improved. Co-operation with the infantry still leaves much to be desired, and also weak points are failure to register Targets immediately on deployment, siting of O.Ps, and digging. It has not been possible to put into effect D F tasks or fire plan support of the infantry with a time programme, but ideas have improved, and there is no reason why this should not be done effectively during the next exercises.

Maintenance of guns has improved except in the case of one battery where the B.C. has been replaced today. Maintenance of vehicles has shown an improvement. Detailed practical instruction has been given to all Officers in the use of winch gears, and there is reason to hope no more winches will be damaged.

The damage to winches was the result of the lack of discipline of the drivers and idleness of the Officers. The only disciplinary action which has been taken is to punish the driver. I consider that in every case where a winch has been damaged the Officer responsible for the vehicle should be made to pay a substantial part of the cost. In no other way will the Italian Officers be made to accept their responsibility for British equipment which they seem to consider flows from an inexhaustible reservoir.

R.H.Q.

6722

There is little co-operation between R.H.Q. and the Battery H.Qs. Unless younger Group Commanders can be found and more energetic Officers at R.H.Q. it is unlikely that any improvement will be seen. (The new B.C. is over 50).

A consider improvement is noticeable in the Q.Ms work which is due to one of the interpreters taking over most of the work.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Shooting in conjunction [illegible] the gun end has been very satisfactory. Communications, especially line laying and maintenance are much improved. Co-operation with the infantry still leaves much to be desired, and also weak points are failure to register Targets immediately on deployment, siting of O.Ps, and digging. It has not been possible to put into effect D F tasks or fire plan support of the infantry with a time programme, but ideas have improved, and there is no reason why this should not be done effectively during the next exercises.

Maintenance of guns has improved except in the case of one battery where the B.C. has been replaced today. Maintenance of vehicles has shown an improvement. Detailed practical instruction has been given to all Officers in the use of winch gears, and there is reason to hope no more winches will be damaged.

The damage to winches was the result of the lack of discipline of the drivers and idleness of the Officers. The only disciplinary action which has been taken is to punish the driver. I consider that in every case where a winch has been damaged the Officer responsible for the vehicle should be made to pay a substantial part of the cost. In no other way will the Italian Officers be made to accept their responsibility for British equipment which they seem to consider flows from an inexhaustible reservoir.

6722

R.H.Q.

There is little co-operation between R.H.Q. and the Battery H.Qs. Unless younger Group Commanders can be found and more energetic Officers at R.H.Q. it is unlikely that any improvement will be seen. (The new B.C. is over 50).

A consider improvement is noticeable in the Q.Ms work which is due to one of the interpreters taking over most of the work.

(Signed) R.A. Lamb. Major.
G II R.A.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

11259

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

APPENDIX "C".

Subject : Eng Training.

50 British Liaison Unit.

Ref RE/5.

G.S.O. 1
50 B.L.U.

19 Nov. 44.

Herewith trg progress report for week ending 18 Nov 44.

(1) Mine Warfare.

Drills now understood, but organisation bad.

(2) Demolitions.

Practical use of camouflet equip. Beehives and 75 grenades.

(3) Bailey Br.

Two pls (old arreste) require more instruction.

(4) Fieldworks.

Quarrying, using explosives and compressers, and roadmaking being done.

(5) M T Tech.

Improvement in M.T. maintenance.
Instruction being given in use of Machinery lorries of Fd Pk Coy.

(6) Weapon Trg.

No improvement. Instructors (Br) have to supervise personally cleaning of arms after firing.

(7) Generally.

Lack of organising ability and interest by Junior Leaders very marked.

6721

C.M.F.
NG/LGB.

(Signed) N. Graham. Capt. RE.
S.O.R.E.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Tel:- FILPOT 23

1605/50/73/G(SD1)

17 Nov 44

SUBJECT:- Progress Reports on Italian Combat Gps

AFHQ (5)

Copy to:- AMLA (10) G(Trg) Med
DMT (5) RA Ord
'A' RE REME
'Q' 'X' Pro
Q(AE) ST HQ Inf

1. In order that HQ AAI may be kept constantly informed of the state of trg and readiness for battle of the LEGNANO, FOLGORE and MANTOVA Combat Gps it is requested that AFHQ, AMLA and DMT forward periodically progress reports on equipment, organisation and trg as shown at Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' attached.

2. FRIULI and CREMONA Gps

(a) The state of eqpt of these Gps is known to AAI.

(b) AMLA are requested to report on both Gps showing posn at 20 Nov on lines of Appendix 'B'.

(c) DMT is requested to report on the state of trg reached by both Gps and to make recommendations on the trg which should be carried out in the Op Zone prior to the Gps being committed to ops.

for General,
Commander in Chief.

6720

G Branch have copy. — 8 spare.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

Appendix 'A' to 1605/50/73/G(SD1)
dated 17 Nov 44

PROGRESS REPORT BY AFHQ ON EQUIPMENT

.....COMBAT GP

State as at .....

(To be rendered in duplicate to AAI showing posn on 1st, 10th and 20th each month).

PART I

Serial	Item (Controlled Stores & Vehs) (a)	W.E. (b)	Held or Released (c)	Deficient (d)	Estimated Date of Release of Items in Coln (d) (e)

6719

PART II

General State of Non-Controlled Stores and Housekeeping Items (incl razor blades, bivouacs etc).

and estimated date of completion.

11267

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

Appendix 'B' to
1605/50/73/G(SD1)
dated 17 Nov 44

PROGRESS REPORT BY IRIA ON ORGANISATION OF PERSONNEL OF

..... COMBAT GP STATE AS AT .....

(To be rendered in duplicate to AAI and AFHQ showing posn 1st, 10th and 20th each month)

PART I - General state of organisation by arms

(To include - percentage strength each arm;
anticipated date of completion;
any special difficulties;
assistance it is considered AFHQ and AAI can give.)

6718

PART II - Specialists and Tradesmen

Type of personnel (a)	W.E. (b)	Numbers trained and held (c)	Deficient (d)	Action being taken to make up deficiencies and anticipated date of completion (e)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

Appendix 'C' to 1605/50/73/3(SD1)
dated 17 Nov 44

PROGRESS REPORT BY DMT ON TRG

OF .....COMBAT GP AS AT...

(to be rendered in duplicate to AFHQ and AAI
showing posn at 1st, 10th and 20th each month)

PART I - General Progress made to date in each arm

PART II - State of trg of specialists and tradesmen

PART III - Balance of programme to be completed

PART IV - Courses and special trg completed

PART V - Any special difficulties encountered e.g. trg areas, trg ammn.

29/32. 143

SUBJECT:- Training Report

52 British Liaison Unit.
CMF.
18 Nov 44

To:- Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.,
(MMIA)

A/7/24

Reference your S/G/29/24 para' 1(c) of 28 Sep 44.

1. All units now hold their W.E. + 5% reserve.

2. (a) Enclosures (a), (b), and (c) refer to arms other than Infantry.

(b) Infantry

(i) training of cadre instructors now complete.

(ii) individual training in platoon weapons now in second week.

NOTE: The shortage of Mortars of both types has delayed training in these weapons. This fact has been represented to DMT.

(c) Pioneer Pls

I Secs. and snipers now formed.

(d) Drivers

The situation at present is as follows:- Trained - 1067, Under training - 250, Awaiting training:- 199.

I again request that the course for 150 Drivers at BARI should be expedited.

(e) Signals

These and Drivers are the biggest bottleneck in the machine. There are 242 new signallers who have just started instruction and I feel that a further nine weeks is the minimum time in which they can be considered efficient. This compares with 5 months British minimum.

3. N.A.

4. Refer my letter A.1 of 11 Nov and private letter to Col

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

week.

NOTE: The shortage of Mortars of both types has delayed training in these weapons. This fact has been represented to DMT.

(c) Pioneer Pls

I Secs. and snipers now formed.

(d) Drivers

Sig. Dobbs
What is this ?

The situation at present is as follows:- Trained - 1067, Under training - 250, Awaiting training - 199.

6716

I again request that the course for 150 Drivers at BARI should be expedited.

(e) Signals

These and Drivers are the biggest bottleneck in the machine. There are 242 new signallers who have just started instruction and I feel that a further nine weeks is the minimum time in which they can be considered efficient. This compares with 5 months British minimum.

3. N.A.

4. Fair, my letter A.3 of 11 Nov and private letter to Col. Pidsley of same date give the main causes of low morale. In addition to these points the D.P. equipment issued to the Artillery is a cause of dissatisfaction. This is difficult to explain in view of the fact that there is an ammunition allotment from DMT.

FAE/WN.

F. Lillist
Lt. Col,
G.S.O.I.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(A)

142

Subject: Artillery Training Report

52 British Liaison Unit
CMF
19 Nov 44.

To: G.I. 52 BLU.

RA/3/2.

1. The training of personnel in 11th Italian Arty Regt has passed little beyond the Individual stage, owing to the very limited scale of training equipment.

2. Specialists. They have mastered elements of British instruments but are slow, owing to an insufficiency of directors and arty boards on which to practise. There are 4 arty boards and 3 directors for eight troops.

Gun Numbers. Progress is rather more satisfactory. They are slow, but satisfactorily accurate.

The training of gun numbers and specialists was not able to commence before the 28 Oct 44 as equipment had not arrived.

Signallers. Wireless training on a small scale has been in progress for ten days. As from 20 Nov 44 wireless training will be in progress in all batteries of the regt. Italian personnel show a satisfactory capability for learning and operating British wireless sets.

No training in the laying of telephone lines has been possible as no cable laying apparatus has been issued, and only a very small amount of old cable is held.

3. Firing was carried out by all batteries of the regt during the week 12/18th Nov on equipment borrowed from the R[redacted]ng Team and the RATD at Eboli. Results were slow but a satisfactory degree of accuracy was achieved.

6715

4. No mobile training has been possible. This will be started on a troop basis during the week commencing 27 Nov, with such Italian vehicles as are obtainable, but this will of necessity be of a makeshift nature. It is estimated that a month's training with full equipment will be necessary to achieve a sufficient standard.

5. The Italian personnel show considerable keenness to learn and are not unduly slow to learn new methods, but get very little inspiration from the limited equipment they have, much of which is not in good condition, and all guns incapable of firing.

.....2

1267

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6. As only a small number of officers and men have attended British courses of instruction, and those only short ones, when this knowledge is disseminated throughout the whole regiment it does not bear as much resemblance to British methods as might be desired.

7. Methods of engagement of targets and fire control have not been taught, and they are still using Italian methods. These seem to me slow and lacking in sufficient control by the officer directing the fire of the guns. However I have not diverged from the policy at present laid down.

A.L. Gharrett Major,
GIIRA.

DEC/NS.

6714

1268

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(h).

LEGNANO Gruppo - Week ending 18 Nov 44

APPENDIX 'D'

Brief statement of state of training and of points requiring action.

1. Training.

(i) Further to last week's report on wireless training, progress has not been great, owing to the fact that the main body of Italian rank and file operators are now tackling the new procedure. The NCOs already being used as instructors continue to be fairly satisfactory, but it is felt that it will be some time before the ordinary marconisti is proficient both with his set and his procedure.

Lack of charged batteries continues to restrict the number of sets that can be used at any one time, but it is hoped to obtain more electrolyte this week.

The state of wireless training in the Infantry and Artillery is similar to that set out above in respect of Signals, except that the Infantry can use all their sets, but mostly with the hand generator only, as few dry batteries are yet to hand.

(ii) A start has been made on the use of British stationery. The message form, signal register and DR docket are being used in the embryonic Signal Office being set up at Gruppo HQ.

2. Action.

This is still requested in respect of,

(a) decentralization of Admin within the Genio Bn, and,
(b) the supply of marconisti, as stated in the last two weekly progress reports.

6713

1269

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(C) 141

SUBJECT:- State of Training - 51 Engineer Bn.

RE/01/1/20

To:- G.I.

1. 3rd ARTIERI COY

(a) One platoon training in Bailey Bridging. Two-thirds of initial training programme completed. Considering the lack of experienced N.C.Os, and [redacted] that training throughout has of necessity been carried out entirely by one Officer only (S.Ten. Cecchetto), progress has been highly satisfactory. Further training will be needed in organising work by N.C.Os and in handling equipment by the men.

Senior N.C.Os should be trained to take charge of the complete Bridging operation so that they will be capable of carrying on in the event of the O i/c becoming a casualty.

(b) One platoon training in Demolitions and Mine Warfare Training completed in recognition of all British, American and German mines, and those Italian mines which I considered necessary. Practical work (continual repetition) in laying minefields, arming, neutralising and lifting all types of mines now in progress.

Two weeks completed of 4 week programme.

(c) One platoon engaged in reconstruction and reinforcement of bridges in PIEDIMONTE destroyed / damaged by recent storms.

2. 51st ARTIERI COY

Complete company engaged in repairing ALIFE - Road mainly in dangerous spots where the road has been washed away by recent rainfall.

8712

12 days previously completed of a 4 weeks Mine Warfare and Demolition programme.

C. Dann
Captain,
S.O.R.E.
52 British Liaison Unit.

17 Nov 44.
CID/WN.

TOP SECRET 140

29/32

S/Sec

SUBJECT: Report 7/18 Nov.

Liaison Officer 1914
Military Mission Italian Army
c/o HQ MANTOVA GP
G-2
19 Nov 44

3P

TO : Military Mission Italian Army, ROME.

Infmn : 54 BLU.

Herewith my report for period 7/18 Nov 44.

1. Liaison Log

7 Nov (i) Following units inspected:
HQ and 2 Bn 114 Inf Regt
248 Field Hospital,
104 Medical Section
104 Engineer Bn
104 Supply Coy
(ii) General BERARDI arrives on tour of inspection MANTOVA GP.

8 Nov (i) 1 Bn 114 Inf Regt inspected
(ii) General BROWNING and Capt CHAYTOR arrive for night.

9 Nov (i) General BROWNING leaves for BENEVENTO
(ii) Lecture on Man Management given to all junior officers in the COSENZA Area.

6711

10 Nov Left for CROTONE where I inspected 1 and 4 Arty Groups of 155 Arty Regt.

11 Nov Lectured all Junior Arty officers on man management. Inspected 2, 5 and 6 Arty Groups. Left for CUTRO where I inspected 3 Arty Group and on to CATANZARO where I had a conference with General CORONATI and his staff.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1. Liaison Log

7 Nov (i) Following units inspected:
HQ and 2 Bn 114 Inf Regt
248 Field Hospital,
104 Medical Section
104 Engineer Bn
104 Supply Coy
(ii) General BERARDI arrives on tour of inspection MANTOVA GP.

8 Nov (i) 1 Bn 114 Inf Regt inspected
(ii) General BROWNING and Capt CHAYTOR arrive for night.

9 Nov (i) General BROWNING leaves for BENEVENTO
(ii) Lecture on Man Management given to all junior officers in the COSENZA Area.

6711

10 Nov Left for CROTONE where I inspected 1 and 4 Arty Groups of 155 Arty Regt.

11 Nov Lectured all Junior Arty officers on man management. Inspected 2, 5 and 6 Arty Groups. Left for CUTRO where I inspected 3 Arty Group and on to CATANZARO where I had a conference with General CORONATI and his staff.

12 Nov Left for REGGIO CALABRIA.

13 Nov To CATANIA and back.

14 Nov REGGIO. C. contacted Lt. Col. ARICOT head of Delegazione Trasporti.

15 Nov Inspected HQ and 1, 2 and 3 Bns of 76 Inf Regt. Delivered lecture to junior officers.

16 Nov To CATANZARO and on to COSENZA.

17 Nov COSENZA.

18 Nov Left COSENZA for ROME.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

2. Order of Battle and Strength Return.

(i) See Appendix 'A' of my report G 2 of 8 Nov 44. No change in Strengths.

(ii) Add Mechanical Engineers Workshop for GP from ex 2 Mobile Arty Wksp (MARCELLINARA)

Strength : 2 Officers, 86 ORs.

My signal Q1 of 9 Nov refers.

3. Clothing and Boots.

My inspection of all units of MANTOVA GP now in CALABRIA has confirmed my first impression. Approximately 90% of the men are in K.D. 30% are in rags and tatters or in civilian dress. 50% are either without or with completely unserviceable boots. I understand from the C of S MANTOVA GP, that MMIA have released 1,000 unrepaired uniforms to him to cover men in civilian clothes, etc. From my previous experience I consider that it would be better to leave the men as they are rather than to issue them with Italian unrepaired clothing; as this would only mean changing their own rags and bugs for other foreign ones and which would lower morale still further. The poor morale at present existing amongst ORs of the MANTOVA GP is almost entirely due to the bad clothing condition in which they are at present.

See also my letter Q1 of 12 Nov and my signal Q1 of 17 Nov.

6710

4. Security.

There is an apalling laxity in security to be found amongst all ranks of the MANTOVA GROUP. I have written General BOLOGNA a letter on the subject (my G/ of 17 Nov copy to you) which will, I hope, tighten things up in this respect before the GP moves to its training area. It may be that a severe example will have to be made of one or two offenders before officers and men alike understand the Allied attitude towards security.

5. Deficiency in Specialists.

I have a copy of the latest return showing the existing deficiencies in specialists by categories which can be

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

or in civilian dress. 80% are either without or with completely unserviceable boots. I understand from the C of S MANTOVA GP, that MMIA have released 1,000 unrepaired uniforms to him to cover men in civilian clothes, etc. From my previous experience I consider that it would be better to leave the men as they are rather than to issue them with Italian unrepaired clothing; as this would only mean changing their own rags and bugs for other foreign ones and which would lower morale still further. The poor morale at present existing amongst ORs of the MANTOVA GP is almost entirely due to the bad clothing condition in which they are at present.

See also my letter Q1 of 12 Nov and my signal Q1 of 17 Nov.

4. Security.

6710

There is an apalling laxity in security to be found amongst all ranks of the MANTOVA GROUP. I have written General BOLOGNA a letter on the subject (my G1 of 17 Nov copy to you) which will, I hope, tighten things up in this respect before the GP moves to its training area. It may be that a severe example will have to be made of one or two offenders before officers and men alike understand the Allied attitude towards security.

5. Deficiency in Specialists.

I have a copy of the latest return showing the existing deficiencies in specialists by categories which can be studied by the Special Section during the course of my next visit to ROME.

Lt. Col. GUALANO, Chief of Staff to the GP considers that the following categories of specialists cannot be trained entirely within the GP and must be posted to it from outside.

Radio Operators
Radio Mechanics
Mechanics, I C
Armourers

In this connection I understand there is a possibility that some of the MANTOVA personnel at present on British courses may be assigned to the FRIULI. Should this happen, the future training of the MANTOVA would be seriously jeopardised because quite naturally, the best officers and NCO's have been picked for these courses.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6. Leave.

There are a fair number of central Italians in the MANTOVA whose homes have been liberated within recent months but who have neither been on leave or received any news of their families since the Armistice.

If this element cannot get home before going into the line, it will certainly have very little incentive for staying there, and I believe it would pay for the GP to arrange its own leave service once it has sufficient transport, to deal with this problem - always working within 5%.

This would have the additional advantage of increasing turnover as nearly two-thirds of a main leave period is at present spent traveling.

7. Service Platoon for HLU (See para 11 my last report)

This unit is ready and will be allerted to leave w.e.f. 20 Nov. It has been carefully chosen and looks first rate. It should still be regarded as on loan only until MMIA furnish another one through the Ministry of War.

8. Conclusion.

My recent inspection of all MANTOVA units has convinced me that the hard core round which the GP can be built exists. Despite difficult conditions General BOLOGNA has maintained a certain standard of discipline and regimental pride amongst, at any rate, officers and NCO's. The best unit is undoubtedly the 114 Inf Regt which should be first class when equipped. The 76 Inf Regt is shedding commanders and needs shaking up badly, but it will be good eventually. 155 Arty Regt appears to be in the worst condition of all for command and discipline, and although a new and apparently energetic regimental commander is getting hold of his groups, I feel that there are several group commanders who will need watching once training starts on the grounds that they are either too old or inefficient. It is hard to assess the values of the Services as the result of one inspection, but I do not feel that 104 Mixed Engineer Bn is a live unit.

6709

All units will suffer badly from lack of specialists once equipment begins to be issued but of course technical units such as engineers, signals, and workshops will be the hardest hit.

Divisional HQ is in good working order. Morale amongst officers and NCO's is fair to good and there is a real desire amongst a good proportion of them to get their equipment, to train, and to get on with the job. The men can be divided into three categories; the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

20 Nov. It has been carefully chosen and looks first rate. It should still be regarded as on loan only until MMIA furnish another one through the Ministry of War.

8. Conclusion.

My recent inspection of all MANTOVA units has convinced me that the hard core round which the GP can be built exists. Despite difficult conditions General BOLOGNA has maintained a certain standard of discipline and regimental pride amongst, at any rate, officers and NCO's. The best unit is undoubtedly the 114 Inf Regt which should be first class when equipped. The 76 Inf Regt is shedding commanders and needs shaking up badly, but it will be good eventually. 155 Arty Regt appears to be in the worst condition of all for command and discipline, and although a new and apparently energetic regimental commander is getting hold of his groups, I feel that there are several group commanders who will need watching once training starts on the grounds that they are either too old or inefficient. It is hard to assess the values of the Services as the result of one inspection, but I do not feel that 104 Mixed Engineer Bn is a live unit.

6709

All units will suffer badly from lack of specialists once equipment begins to be issued but of course technical units such as engineers, signals, and workshops will be the hardest hit.

Divisional HQ is in good working order. Morale amongst officers and NCO's is fair to good and there is a real desire amongst a good proportion of them to get their equipment, to train, and to get on with the job. The men can be divided into three categories; the Settentrionali to whom any move northward is satisfactory, the centrali who are good stock, but restless, as most of them have been unable to get to their homes yet, and the Meridionali who are peasant stock only and who have little or no inclination to leave their homeland for the privations of war.

Provided the latter are not more than, say, 15% of the GP, and the obvious non-starters are weeded out, I do not believe the GP will suffer as a whole.

The morale of the MANTOVA will, I am certain, undergo a remarkable change for the better on the issue of clothes and equipment.

Discipline is fair considering the state of clothing that the men have been in during the recent months. The tightening up of discipline depends in turn on raising morale. As soon as clothing and small arms are issued close order drill is, I feel, the first step towards restoring discipline.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

8. (Contd)

The new organization is in operation as far as is possible, given the reduced strength of all units. Officers and NCO's are well acquainted with the new organization but the [redacted] interest has not yet been roused.

This is due to continued delay in departure and to the fact that all instruction in arms and equipment have so far been theoretical.

My lecture on man management has, I think, partly been appreciated, partly resented, at any rate it has furnished a bone of contention and stimulated interest, which was the object . It will be interesting to see if it bears fruit. A Black/White list is being prepared.

9. Requirements.

(i) 54 ELU must concentrate on getting clothing for the GP as soon as possible and as outlined in para 3 of my last report.

Unlike FRIULI and CREMONA the MANTOVA will reach the cold and wet BENEVENTO Area when winter is really beginning.

I must again emphasise that if the GP were allowed to remain in the training area for over two weeks without any issues of British clothing being made the effect on morale and health would be disastrous.

(ii) MMIA should release on loan 1,000 repaired sets of clothing, if available, to cover immediate requirements of GP.

(iii) In view of the severity of the weather at BENEVENTO and unless British clothing is going to be immediately available, MMIA should issue on loan, a third blanket per man.

(iv) Animals. See my signal Q1 of 17 Nov . Animals should only be entrained in CALABRIA to go to their final destination when the latter is decided upon. A decision on this question is urgently needed.

(v) The HQ GP needs another interpreter. I will discuss when in ROME.

(vi) 2 Ambulances from Italian Source unless an other arrangement for the evacuation of sick from units to hospital can be made locally at BENEVENTO.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Unlike FRIULI and CREMONA the MANTOVA will reach the cold and wet BENEVENTO Area when winter is really beginning.

I must again emphasise that if the GP were allowed to remain in the training area for over two weeks without any issues of British clothing being made the effect on morale and health would be disastrous.

(ii) MMIA should release on loan 1,000 repaired sets of clothing, if available, to cover immediate requirements of GP.

(iii) In view of the severity of the weather at BENEVENTO and unless British clothing is going to be immediately available, MMIA should issue on loan, a third blanket per man.

(iv) Animals. See my signal Q1 of 17 Nov . Animals should only be entrained in CALABRIA to go to their final destination when the latter is decided upon. A decision on this question is urgently needed. B 7018

(v) The HQ GP needs another interpreter. I will discuss when in ROME.

(vi) 2 Ambulances from Italian Source unless an other arrangement for the evacuation of sick from units to hospital can be made locally at BENEVENTO.

H. AC. Howard

Lt. Col. GSO 1 (L)
MMIA LO MANTOVA GROUP

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

0139

SUBJECT: Weekly Reports

Land Forces Sub Com. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
S/C/29/JE
20 Nov 44

TO : 1 AAI

R 21/11

The attached (3) copies of a report valid 17 Nov on CHROMA Group from OC 51 BLU are forwarded for your information.

Questions affecting Italian officers are here taken up with the Minister for War. You may wish to refer to the criticisms as you want to write.

W. P.

Major General
M.M.I.A.

6707

Subject :- Weekly Reports

SECRET

138

G 6

51 British Liaison Unit

To :- HQ B.I.L.A.

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sept 44 herewith my seventh report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memorandum on the strength situation as App I to this report.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry

Pl trg has gone well this week. Regts are holding Coy exercises this week involving the taking over of a defensive position. It is hoped to do this on at least Bn level prior to our move from this area. The demonstrations of Pl in the attack for the C in C were well done by both Regts and all ranks display keenness and dash in trg. Care of weapons is very poor and the Chief of Staff states this was a universal fault in the Italian Army. Special attention is being paid to this. On the other hand the British Armourer who - at my orders - inspected a number of rifles of the 22 Regt reports that the weapons were issued in a defective state. This has been reported to the A.I.A. The course at FRIGENTO for carriers and Mortars personnel proceeds satisfactorily.

(ii) Arty

7 Arty Regt are firing this week I Bty fired on 14 and 15 Nov. III Bty will fire on 16 and 17 Nov. Attention is being concentrated on organisation of the gun position and trg of gun detachments. O.P. work will receive attention later. There were many minor faults in gun drill and gun discipline to correct but the results of the first two days firing were satisfactory. Telephone discipline on the range did NOT exist. This is being corrected. M.T. and deployment are to be the principal features of the next two weeks trg. The A/Tk Bty will fire on the Coast Range at the School Artillery on 22 Nov. The A.A. Bty - now armed with British guns - will fire at an aeroplane towed sleeve on Nov 17.

(ii) Engineers

Bailey Bridge trg now complete. Pl trg shows up a weakness in the officers. 50% of Weapon trg is complete. A start on explosives trg was made on 15 Nov. Bad weather has seriously hampered trg.

6706

(iv) Signals

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Pl trg has gone well this week. Regts are holding coy exercises this week involving the taking over of a defensive position. It is hoped to do this on at least Bn level prior to our move from this area. The demonstrations of Pl in the attack for the C in C were well done by both Regts and all ranks display keenness and dash in trg. Care of weapons is very poor and the Chief of Staff states this was a universal fault in the Italian Army. Special attention is being paid to this. On the other hand the British Armourer who - at my orders - inspected a number of rifles of the 22 Regt reports that the weapons were issued in a defective state. This has been reported to the A.I.A. The course at FRIGNANO for carriers and Mortars personnel proceeds satisfactorily.

(ii) Arty

7 Arty Regt are firing this week I Bty fired on 14 and 15 Nov. III Bty will fire on 16 and 17 Nov. Attention is being concentrated on organisation of the gun position and trg of gun detachments. C.P. work will receive attention later. There were many minor faults in gun drill and gun discipline to correct but the results of the first two days firing were satisfactory. Telephone discipline on the range did NOT exist. This is being corrected. M.T. and deployment are to be the principal features of the next two weeks trg. The A/Tk Bty will fire on the Coast Range at the School Artillery on 22 Nov. The A.A. Bty - now armed with British guns - will fire at an aeroplane towed sleeve on Nov 17.

(iii) Engineers

Bailey Bridge trg now complete. Pl trg shows up a weakness in the officers. 50% of Weapon trg is complete. A start on explosives trg was made on 15 Nov. Bad weather has seriously hampered trg.

6706

(iv) Signals

Lecture on H/T and Slidex was given on Nov 13. Another one will be given shortly. All wireless trucks have been fitted up. Six of the cable trucks are complete and the remainder should be finished tomorrow.

(v) Mechanical Engineers

The prolonged and painful period of gestation continues. Three "Squadre Volante" or flying squads are now operating. These consist of an officer and six mechanics and their role is to repair 1st Echelon troubles in the Gruppo. The O i/c Wksp continues to inspire a complete lack of confidence in himself. I mentioned this industrious but quite inept officer to Gen BROWNING and I understood that S.M.R.E. are being asked to produce a replacement. Major RENDO who we asked for is NOT available. This is a matter of prime importance.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. RE - EQUIPPING

This proceeds very slowly. There are a large number of utterly essential items which are NOT available but which must be produced if the Gruppo is ever to go into action. I am NOT certain that the entire seriousness of the situation is fully appreciated. Mortars are a case in point. We have drawn half our entitlement of 3" and about 1/8 of our entitlement of 2". There are no more likely to be available. With the modest Arty strength of the Gruppo it is obviously essential that the troops have at least their full scale of close support weapons. The vehicle situation is serious. The Wksp has been issued with 10 x 3 Tonners plus 17 x 15 cwts. Without canopies, windscreens, tools etc. This unit has a quantity of complicated and expensive stores and machines. These must go somewhere and if placed in these vehicles they are exposed to rain, snow etc. This is a grotesque situation. The General has been issued with an old Staff Car. This has arrived with no seats apart from one for the driver. I consider this as an insult and NOT good for British prestige. It hardly can be contemplated that the Gruppo will move with its Commander squatting on the floor of a completely bare vehicle. 65% of vehicles issued to the Gruppo are Class 1D. This means that they have NO tools. As NO tools have been issued with other stores we are experiencing definite difficulty in performing ordinary maintenance tasks. This is disheartening in view of the presence here of a team from REME who are giving instruction in maintenance. I would like to emphasise that AFHQ and - to the full of its limited - capacity - 3 District are co-operative, but that certain essential items are NOT available. IF the Gruppi are to fight they must be equipped.

4. MORALE

The visits of General ALEXANDER and the PRINCE of PIEDMONT roused great interest and had a good effect. I should say morale was good in the Gruppo.

5. GENERAL

The vexed question of Colonel SILVESTRI will be solved during the coming week. The situation is that this officer is NOT entirely satisfactory and this fact is fully realised by Generals PRIMIERI, ZANUSSI, and by the Chief of Staff. Good and battle experienced Colonels are - I understand - in short supply in the Italian Army and the list is being closely examined. Should no good replacement be available we must make the best of SILVESTRI. He is - in my opinion - erratic and temperamental but is also enthusiastic and, I am informed, a brave man in action.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

in performing ordinary maintenance tasks. This is disheartening in view of the presence here of a team from RENE who are giving instruction in maintenance. I would like to emphasise that APHQ and - to the full of its limited - capacity - 3 District are co-operative, but that certain essential items are NOT available. IF the Gruppi are to fight they must be equipped.

4. MORALE

The visits of General ALEXANDER and the PRINCE of PIEDMONT roused great interest and had a good effect. I should say morale was good in the Gruppo.

5. GENERAL

The vexed question of Colonel SILVESTRI will be solved during the coming week. The situation is that this officer is NOT entirely satisfactory and this fact is fully realised by Generals PRIMIERI, ZANUSSI, and by the Chief of Staff. Good and battle experienced Colonels are - I understand - in short supply in the Italian Army and the list is being closely examined. Should no good replacement be available we must make the best of SILVESTRI. He is - in my opinion - erratic and temperamental but is also enthusiastic and, I am informed, a brave man in action.

/Sgd/

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

6705

Field
17 Nov 44
BWSC/WHH

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Report 2/[illegible] Nov

TOP SECRET 137

Liaison Officer
Military Mission Italian Army
c/o HQ MANTOVA GP
Q 2
8 Nov '44

To: Military Mission Italian Army
ROME.

Infm 54 BLU (No Appendices)

1. Herewith my initial report on the GRUPPO COMBATTENTE MANTOVA.

2. LIAISON LOG

2 Nov. Arrived SAN GIORGIO. Conference with C C 50 BLU and AQMG
3 Nov. Discussed problems of take over from FRIULI with Lt. Col. SABRE i/c MANTOVA advanced party.
To BENEVENTO. Discussed take over FRIULI area by MANTOVA with Quatering Cmdt. On to LAGONEGRO for night.
4 Nov. Arrived COSENZA. General BROWNING and Capt. CRAYTOR arrived pm.
5 Nov. Conference with General CORONATI (GOC COMILIT CALABRIA) and General BOLOGNA (GOC MANTOVA GP).
6 Nov. General BROWNING leaves am for PALERMO.

3. Conference 5 Nov.

(i) General CORONATI outlined the necessity for 2 gd bns in CALABRIA once MANTOVA go. General BROWNING stated that the whole question was under review at AFHQ but that the solution prefered by MMIA was that the present bn of the SABAUDA Div. now in CALABRIA should return to SICILY and that 2 bns of the CALABRIA Div. should be shipped across from SARDINIA. This would take place if possible before the MANTOVA left. At any rate General CORONATI would not be left with less than the one gd bn already under his command.

G(SD) is coping.

(ii) M.T. poen COMILIT CALABRIA to be discussed by General CORONATI and Lt. Col.HOWARD and reported by latter to MMIA

(iii) Question of MANTOVA leaving CALABRIA with sufficient tentage, blankets, paliases(and gas masks) to cover organic strength to be dealt with direct by General CORONATI & Lt. Col.HOWARD. General BROWNING approved the principle that any items of clothing equipment issued from Calabrian depots surplus to present strength MANTOVA GP should be considered as Iti-Iti loan to be refunded on issue British equipment

AQ 15 note 2.1.e

6704

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

4 Nov. Arrived COSENZA. General BROWNING and Capt. CHAYTOR arrived pm.
5 Nov. Conference with General CORONATI (GOC COMILIT CALABRIA) and General BOLOGNA (GOC MANTOVA GP).
6 Nov. General BROWNING leaves am for PALERMO.

3. Conference 5 Nov.

(i) General CORONATI outlined the necessity for 2 gd bns in CALABRIA once MANTOVA go. General BROWNING stated that the whole question was under review at AFHQ but that the solution prefered by MMIA was that the present bn of the SABAUDA Div. now in CALABRIA should return to SICILY and that 2 bns of the CALABRIA Div. should be shipped across from SARDINIA. This would take place if possible before the MANTOVA left. At any rate General CORONATI would not be left with less than the one gd bn already under his command.

(ii) M.T. posn COMILIT CALABRIA to be discussed by General CORONATI and Lt. Col.HOWARD and reported by latter to MMIA

(iii) Question of MANTOVA leaving CALABRIA with sufficient tentage, blankets, paliases(and gas masks) to cover organic strength to be dealt with direct by General CORONATI and Lt. Col.HOWARD. General BROWNING approved the principle that any items of clothing equipment issued from Calabrian depots surplus to present strength MANTOVA GP should be considered as Iti-Iti loan to be refunded on issue British equipment (see also App. F to MMIA Letter TS/G/29 of 26 Sep 44 para 4)

(iv) General BROWNING outlined program for equipping and training Italian combat groups and laid particular stress on:
(a) elimination unsuitable officers
(b) maintainace of British equipment

4. Order of Battle and Strength Return as at 4 Nov 44 is attached as appendix A. The following points should be noted: -

(i) Organic strength shown as 435 offs and 8712 OR's, whereas App. A to MMIA Letter noted above lays it down as 426 offs 8478 OR's. I will examine reasons for the difference and rectify before GP moves.

(ii) The MANTOVA GP is in four main blocks:
(a) 76 Inf. Regt. REGGIO CALABRIA
(b) 114 Inf. Regt. services and Div. HQ COSENZA
(c) 155 Arty Regt. CROTONE
(d) 2 Bn 119 Inf. Regt. } NAPLES-VAIRANO area
120 Indipendent Bn } (reinforcements for MANTOVA GP)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(iii) Hardly any of the workshops have been formed owing to lack of personnel and equipment.

(iv) The strength deficiency as shown 87 offs and 2624 OR's will be [redacted] offset when the 2 bns in the NAPLES area total 52 offs and 1310 OR's reinforce the Group.

The remaining deficiency will have to be made up entirely of specialist personnel (see para 6). There will however also be a large number of non specialists filling specialist appointments.

5. For reorganization of MANTOVA Gp see Appendix B

6. Deficiency of Specialists. The data given me by HQ MANTOVA GP dates from 24 sep 44 and is therefore out of date. The most important deficiencies were then, however,

S.S is taking this up.

W O's :	Armourers	12
Senior NCO's :	M T Personnel	16
	Truck vehicle drivers	8
	Mechanics	5
OR's :	Drivers	1034
	Signals operators	360
	Mechanics	136
	Despatch riders	209

The total deficiency of specialists was given as 2314.

7. Personnel on Leave courses sick etc. is shown in Appendix C. The rather unsatisfactory column called "Cause Varie" is said to be made up of inter divisional postings, special duty and deserters.

The figure for the latter is not however high, having been given me as 69 as at 28 Oct. The leave figure, which as shown is large, will be reduced to 5% of the present strength by 10 Nov.

I believe that when the MANTOVA finally moves to its training area it is likely to leave behind in CALABRIA approximately: 6703

A.Q.

Leave	300
Sick	250
Deserters	150
Cause Varie	100
	800 Total

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

deficiencies were then, however,

S.S is taking this up.

W O's :	Armourers	12
Senior NCO's :	M T Personnel	16
	Truck vehicle drivers	8
	Mechanics	5
OR's :	Drivers	1034
	Signals operators	360
	Mechanics	136
	Despatch riders	209

The total deficiency of specialists was given as 2314.

7. Personnel on Leave courses sick etc. is shown in Appendix C. The rather unsatisfactory column called "Cause Varie" is said to be made up of inter divisional postings, special duty and deserters.

The figure for the latter is not however high, having been given me as 69 as at 28 Oct. The leave figure, which as shown is large, will be reduced to 5% of the present strength by 10 Nov.

I believe that when the MANTOVA finally moves to its training area it is likely to leave behind in CALABRIA approximately: 6703

AQ.

Leave	300
Sick	250
Deserters	150
Cause Varie	100
	800 Total

8. Clothing and Boots.

From the 5 Units already inspected it is likely that 50% of the present strength of the MANTOVA in CALABRIA will have to be issued with new boots. Between 20% and 30% are urgently in need of onter clothing. As I see it, no training of any kind will be possible for the GP as it is at present clothed and the first task of the BLU will be to get clothing released for them in the following priority:

A.Q. Please advise what should be done WP

No action yet taken by AQ 18 Nov

(i) Boots 5/7000
(ii) Overcoats For total strength of GP
(iii) Antigas capes " " " " "
(iv) Remainder of clothing scale for total strength of GP

9. Readiness to move. A weeks warning should suffice to enable the MANTOVA to move its units at present in CALABRIA to the training area.

G II

G III 15/11

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10. Advance Party. An advance party of the GP already exists in the SAN GIORGIO area and this will be further strengthened by representatives of the staff and services as soon as a date is fixed for the move. Lt. Col. SABRE is in charge of the advance party and is billeted in SAN GIORGIO. Capt. GENTLE SORE now with MMIA LO 50 BLU knows where he lives.

11. Italian Service Pl for 54 BLU. I have asked HQ MANTOVA GP to form a temporary unit as laid down in MMIA letter TS/G/29 of 28 Aug 44, Appendix C in case the properly constituted unit is not ready in time.

S.S/ SMEE to form unit.

12. Conclusion I still believe that the MANTOVA has the makings of a Combat GROUP. The main points are as follows:

(i) The Calabrian elements now about 40% to 50% should not be allowed to exceed 20%. This can be arranged later on.

(ii) Morale should be raised as soon as possible by the issue first of clothing and boots to scale and secondly of training equipment.

(iii) It would be disastrous if the GP were allowed to remain clothed and equiped as at present in the SAN GIORGIO area for longer than two weeks. Morale would break as they expect a great deal from the move.

(iv) It is essential that at least sufficient tentage, blankets, palisaes, be brought by the GP to its training area to cover the period before the clothing scale is issued. 90% of the men are in KD and 30% in rags and tatters or civilian dress. 50% are either without or with completely unserviceable boots.

A.Q. .111-1/1 Send Sutton NOT both Commands R/O 15Nov

Recommendations.

✓ (i) As much warning as possible of the date of movement should be given to HQ MANTOVA GP.

✓ (ii) The BLU should be in situ in the training area at least a week before the main body of the Division arrives.

A.Q. No Warm clothing R/O 15Nov

(iii) If there is any difficulty on the part of British Ordinance in supplying boots and winter clothing, MMIA should seriously consider the issue on loan of both to the MANTOVA once it reaches the training area. I repeat morale is not high now and may break if the GP reaches SAN GIORGIO and remains in its present state and unable to train for lack of clothing.

6702

S.S.

(iv) If FRIULI does not move before 18 Nov. GP and Regimental Commanders should pay it a brief visit in order to get first hand information of the problems from the Italian

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(iii) It would be disastrous if the GP were allowed to remain clothed and equiped as at present in the SAN GIORGIO area for longer than two weeks. Morale would break as they expect a great deal from the move.

(iv) It is essential that at least sufficient tentage, blankets, paliases, be brought by the GP to its training area to cover the period before the clothing scale is issued. 90% of the men are in KD and 30% in rags and tatters or civilian dress. 50% are either without or with completely unserviceable boots.

Recommendations.

(i) As much warning as possible of the date of movement should be given to HQ MANTOVA GP.

(ii) The BLU should be in situ in the training area at least a week before the main body of the Division arrives.

(iii) If there is any difficulty on the part of British Ordinance in supplying boots and winter clothing, MMIA should seriously consider the issue on loan of both to the MANTOVA once it reaches the training area. I repeat morale is not high now and may break if the GP reaches SAN GIORGIO and remains in its present state and unable to train for lack of clothing.

(iv) FRIULI does not move before 18 Nov. GP and Regimental Commanders should pay it a brief visit in order to get first hand information of the problems from the Italian side about the area they will occupy.

(v) MMIA should call for a War Ministry return of specialists surplus to the requirements of the Internal Security Divisions ACSTA and SABAUDA.
This personnel should be made available to the MANTOVA before individual training begins.

#AC.Howard

Lt. Col. G S O I (L)
MMIA LO MANTOVA GROUP

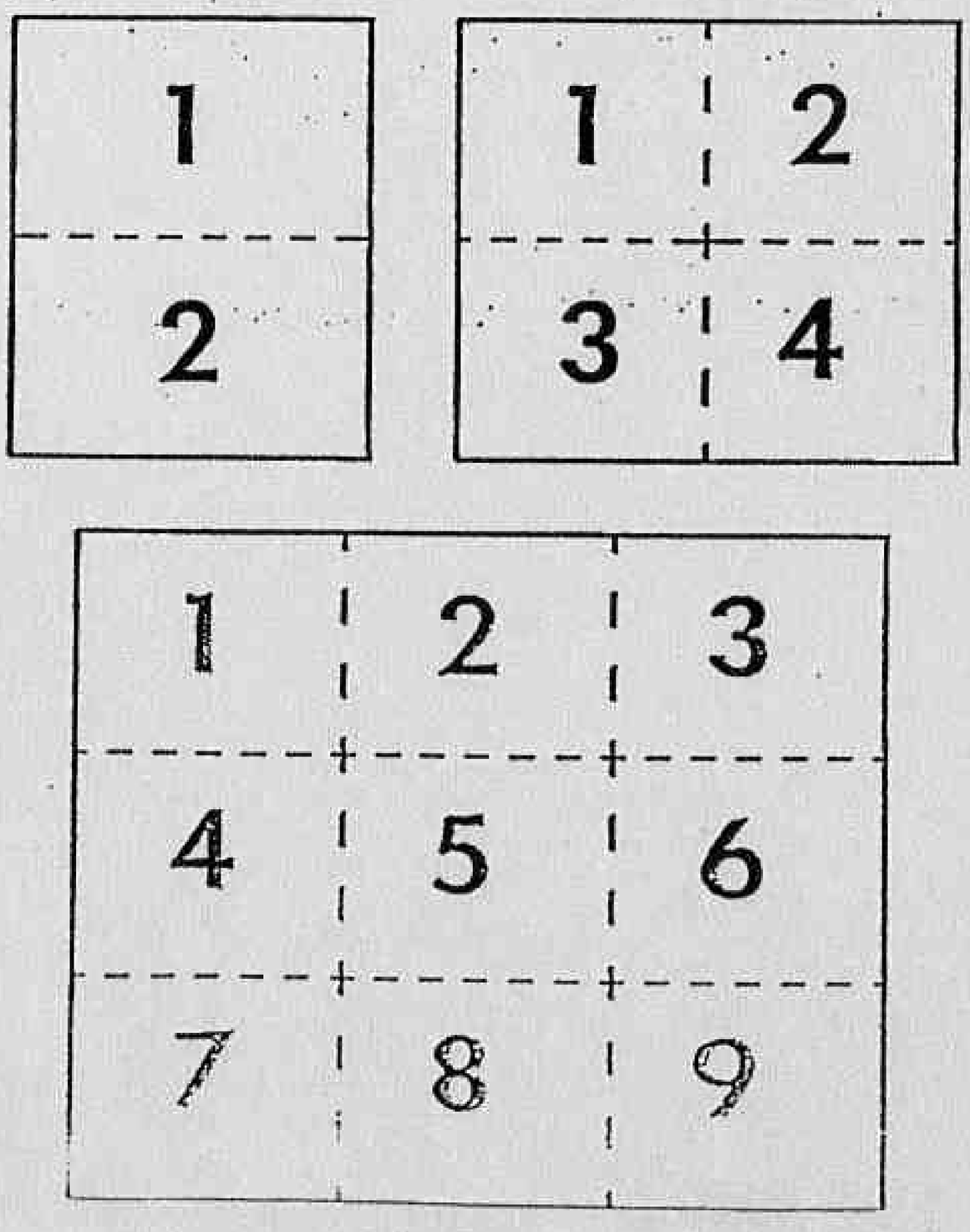
6702

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

REPARTO	Costituito o in corso di costituzione	Dislocazione attuale	Organico Uff.	Organico Sott e tr	Forza eff. Uff.	Forza eff. Sott e tr	Ufficiali Def.	Ufficiali Eaub.
Quartier generale ...	Già costituito	Cosenza	28	II3	30	I52	-	2
76° rgt.ftr.								
-cdo e cp.cdo rgt. ..	"		I5	IOI	2I	I65	-	6
- cp.mortai da 76 ...	"		3	95	3	I07	-	-
- cp.cannoni	" (3)	Reggio Cal.	6	I62	4	I25	2	-
- I btg.	"		3I	742	I7	470	I4	-
- II "	"		3I	742	I6	402	I5	-
- III "	"		3I	742	27	762	4	-
			II7	2584	88	2031	35	6
II4° rgt.ftr.								
- cdo e cp.cdo rgt. .	"	Cosenza	I5	IOI	20	I93	4	5
- cp.mortai	"	"	3	95	2	90	I	-
- cp.cannoni	"	"	6	I62	2	70	4	-
- I btg.	"	Castrovillari	3I	742	30	556	I	-
- II btg.	"	Cosenza	3I	742	3I	659	-	-
- III btg.	Non costituito	(1)	3I	742	-	-	3I	-
			II7	2584	85	I568	37	5
I55° rgt.artiglieria.								
- cdo e rep.cdo rgt..		Crotone	II	74	I3	77	-	2
- I gr. da 25 libbre		"	I5	239	I8	200	-	3
- II gr. da 25 "		Borgia	I5	239	I4	245	I	-
- III gr.da 25 "	Già costit.	Cutro	I5	239	IO	240	5	-
- IV gr. da 25 "		Crotone	I5	239	I3	I85	2	-
- V gr. da I7 "		"	9	I72	I8	35I	-	9
- VI gr.da 40 m/m ...		"	I3	23I	I2	I40	I	-
			93	I433	98	I438	9	I4
I04°btg.misto genio								
- comando	"	Cosenza	6	I6	2	5	4	-
- 79^ cp.artieri	"	Cerisano	5	227	4	I53	I	-
- 4^ cp.artieri	Non costituita	- -	5	227	-	-	5	-
- I07^ cp.teleradio .	Già costituita	Cerisano	7	327	4	229	3	-
			23	797	I0	387	I3	-
I04^ cp.trasp. e rif.	"	Cosenza	I3	294	II	I48	2	-
I04^ sezione sanità .	"	"	I4	236	9	I0I	5	-
248° ospedale campo .	"	"	6	44	6	39	-	-
50I° ospedale campo .	"	Crotone	6	44	5	42	I	-
I04° deposito mobile.	"	Vibo Valentia	4	73	4	73	-	-
I5I^ sezione CC.RR. .	"	Cosenza	I	45	I	55	-	-
99^ sezione CC.RR. .	"	Napoli	I	45	I	55	-	-
3^ cp.parco campale .	In corso cost.	— (2)	5	I29	-	-	5	-
Officine meccaniche:								
- off.mob.per Gr.Comb.	Da costituire	-	6	I68	-	-	6	-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

APPENDIX A

Forza eff.		Deficienze ed esuberanze								Da portare al seguito						
		Ufficiali		Sott.e tr.		Ufficiali		Sott.e tr.								
Uff.	Sott.e tr	Def.	Esub.	Def.	Esub	Totali Def.	Esub.	Def.	Esub.	Quadrupedi	Carreggio	Trattori	Autocarri	L/39	Motocicli	Autovetture
30	I52	-	2	-	39	-	2	-	39	8	I	I	I2	I3	9	4
2I	I65	-	6	-	64											
3	I07	-	-	-	I2											
4	I25	2	-	37	-											
I7	470	I4	-	272	-											
I6	402	I5	-	340	-											
27	762	4	-	-	20											
88	203I	35	6	649	96	29	-	553	-	I65	29	-	5	2I	-	2
20	I93	3	5	-	92											
2	90	I	-	5	-											
2	70	4	-	92	-											
30	556	I	-	I86	-											
3I	659	-	-	83	-											
-	-	3I	-	742	-											
85	I568	37	5	IIO8	92	32	-	IOI6	-	53	6	-	2	33	I0	I
I3	77	-	2	-	3											
I8	200	-	3	39	-											
I4	245	I	-	-	6											
I0	240	5	-	-	I											
I3	I85	2	-	54	-											
I8	35I	-	9	-	I79											
I2	I40	I	-	9I	-											
98	I438	9	I4	I84	I89	-	5	-	5	354	24	7	37	-	I2	2
2	5	4	-	II	-											
4	I53	I	-	74	-											
-	-	5	-	227	-											
4	229	3	-	98	-											
I0	387	I3	-	4I0	-	I3	-	4I0	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-
II	I48	2	-	I46	-	2	-	I46	-	-	-	-	7	-	I	-
9	IOI	5	-	I36	-	5	-	I36	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-
6	39	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-
5	42	I	-	2	-	I	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I	55	-	-	-	I0	-	-	-	I0	-	-	-	-	-	I0	-
I	55	-	-	-	I0	-	-	-	I0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	5	-	I29	-	5	-	I29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	6	-	I68	-	6	-	I68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1292

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

104ª cp.trasp. e rif.	"	Cosenza	13	294	11	148	2	-
104ª sezione sanità .	"	"	14	236	9	101	5	-
248° ospedale campo .	"	"	6	44	6	39	-	-
501° ospedale campo .	"	Crotone	6	44	5	42	1	-
104° deposito mobile.	"	Vibo Valentia	4	73	4	73	-	-
151ª sezione CC.RR. .	"	Cosenza	1	45	1	55	-	-
99ª sezione CC.RR. .	"	Napoli	1	45	1	55	-	-
3ª cp.parco campale .	In corso cost.	— (2)	5	129	-	-	5	-
Officine meccaniche:								
- off.mob.per Gr.Comb.	Da costituire	-	6	158	-	-	6	-
- off.mob.legg.76°ftr.	"	-	-	14	-	-	-	-
- off.mob.legg.114 "	"	-	-	14	-	-	-	-
- off.mob. " 155art.n.	2 "	-	-	26	-	-	-	-
- off.mob. " 104gen."	2 "	-	-	28	-	-	-	-
-pl.off.per cp.T.e R.	"	-	1	39	-	-	1	-
	TOTALE officine meccaniche ..		7	291	-	-	7	-
	TOTALE GENERALE		435	8712	348	6089	114	27

Defic

(1)- Sarà costituito non appena il Gr. di Combattimento si trasferirà nella zo
battaglioni :

- 11/119° ftr. - uff. nr. 25 - sottuff. e truppa nr. 630 } Non si
- 120° btg.autonomo - uff. nr.7 - sottuff. e truppa " 680 } si potr

(2)- Dalla trasformazione della 21ª cp.artieri attualmente in trasferimento na
della quale non si conosce la forza.

(3)- Personale delle cp.provvisorie del 119° ftr. che devono rientrare a posti
ritoriali ed Allegati : Ufficiali nr. 1 = Sottufficiali e truppa nr. 101 =

=====oOo=====

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

II	I48	2	-	I46	-	2	-	I46	-	-	-	-	7	-	I	-
9	IOI	5	-	I36	-	5	-	I36	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-
6	39	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-
5	42	I	-	2	-	I	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I	55	-	-	-	IO	-	-	-	IO	-	-	-	-	-	IO	-
I	55	-	-	-	IO	-	-	-	I0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	5	-	I29	-	5	-	I29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	6	-	I68	-	6	-	I68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	I4	-	-	-	I4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	I4	-	-	-	I4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	I4	-	-	-	I4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	I	-	39	-	I	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	7	-	29I	-	7	-	29I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
348	6089	II4	27	3060	436	94	7	2688	64	58I	6I	8	68	67	46	9
				Deficienze effett.		87		2624 (1)								

i trasferirà nella zona di Benevento dalla trasformazione di uno dei seguenti

nr. 630 } Non si hanno dati sul personale che da questi btg.
pa " 680 } si potrà incorporare nel Gruppo di Combattimento.-

e in trasferimento nella zona di S.Giorgio del Sannio

ono rientrare a sostituzione avvenuta nei servizi ter-
li e truppa nr. IOI =

=oOo=

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SINTESI DELLA TRASFORMAZIONE DELLA DIV/NE DI R. AUTOTRASPORTABILE "MANTOVA" IN G

	COSTITUZIONE PRIMITIVA	SCIOGLIMENTI	TRASFORMAZIONI	COSTITUZIONI	ASSEGNAZIONI
COMANDO	Comando Divisione quartiere gener. I5I^ sez. CC.RR.		I5I^sez.mista CC.RR		99^sez.CC.RR.
FANTERIA	76° rgt. fanteria I btg. ..... II btg. ..... cp.mortai		in III battaglione in cp.cann.6 libbre		
	II4°rgt. fanteria I btg. ..... II " ..... cp. mortai		in III battaglione	Cp.cann.6 lib	
	II9°RGT.fanteria I btg. ..... II " ..... cp.mortai	II btg.			
	209° btg.mtr. I20°btg.auton.ftr.	209°btg.mtr.			
ARTIGLIERIA	I55° rgt.art. I gr.I00/22 T.A II gr.I00/22 " III gr. 75/27 " IV gr.I00/22T.M V gr.I05/32 " 2 btr.da 20 m/m (811^ e 29^)	2 btr.20 m/m (811^ e 29^)	in I gr. 25 libbre in II gr. 25 " in III gr.25 " in IV gr. 25 " in V gr. I7 "	VI gr.40 m/m	
GENIO	79^ cp.artieri . I07^cp.mista TRT		in I07^ cp.telerad.	Cdo I04° btg. misto genio 3^ cp.parco campale	4^ cp.artieri

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

APPENDIX B

RMAZIONE DELLA DIV/NE DI [illegible]R. AUTOTRASPORTABILE "MANTOVA" IN GR[illegible] DI COMB."MANTOVA"

GLIMENTI TRASFORMAZIONI	COSTITUZIONI	ASSEGNAZIONI	COSTITUZIONE FINALE
			Cdo Gruppo Combattimento
I5 I^sez.mista CC.RR		99^sez.CC.RR.	quartier generale ..... I5 I^ sez.mista CC.RR. .. 99^ sez.mista CC.RR. ..
in III battaglione in cp.cann.6 libbre			76° reggimento fanteria I btg. ..... II " ..... III " ..... cp. mortai ..... cp.cannoni da 6 libbre .
in III battaglione	Cp.cann.6 lib		II4°reggimento fanteria I btg. ..... II " ..... III " ..... cp. mortai ..... cp.cann. da 6 libbre ...
btg.			
°btg.mtr.			
in I gr. 25 libbre in II gr. 25 " in III gr.25 " in IV gr. 25 " in V gr. I7 " tr.20 m/m 1^ e 29^)	VI gr.40 m/m		I55° rgt.artiglieria I gr. da 25 libbre .. II " " 25 " .. III " " 25 " .. IV " " 25 " .. V " " I7 " .. VI gr. da 40 m/m .....
in I07^ cp.teleraд.	Cdo I04° btg. misto genio 3^ cp.parco campale	4^ cp.artieri	I04° btg.misto genio .... 79^ cp.artieri ..... I07^ cp. teleradio ..... 4^ cp. artieri ..... 3^ cp.parco campale ...

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ARTIGLIERIA	I55° rgt.art. I gr.I00/22 T.A II gr.I00/22 " III gr. 75/27 " IV gr.I00/22T.M V gr.I05/32 " 2 btr.da 20 m/m (811^ e 29^)	2 btr.20 m/m (811^ e 29^)	in I gr. 25 libbre in II gr. 25 " in III gr.25 " in IV gr. 25 " in V gr. I7 "	VI gr.40 m/m	
GENIO	79^ cp.artieri . I07^cp.mista TRT		in I07^ cp.telerad.	Cdo I04° btg. misto genio 3^ cp.parco campale	4^ cp.artieri
SANITÀ	I04^ sez.sanità..				248°osped.cam 50I° " "
	I02^ sez.sussist. II46^ autor.pes..	I02^sez.suss. II46^aut.pes.		I04^cp.T.e R. e pl.off.per cp.trasporti	
	76^off.mob.Mod.37	76^ off.mob.		Off. mob. per Gr.Combattim/	
	11° nucleo S.S. .	11° nucl.S.S.		6 off.mob.leg	
				I04^ dep.mob. per materiale art. e genio	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

			I55° rgt.artiglieria
in I gr. 25 libbre in II gr. 25 " in III gr.25 " in IV gr. 25 " in V gr. I7 " r.20 m/m ^ e 29^)	VI gr.40 m/m		I gr. da 25 libbre .. II " " 25 " .. III " " 25 " .. IV " " 25 " .. V " " I7 " .. VI gr. da 40 m/m .....
in I07^ cp.telerad.	Cdo I04° btg. misto genio 3^ cp.parco campale	4^ cp.artieri	I04° btg.misto genio .... 79^) cp.artieri ..... I07^ cp. teleradio ..... 4^ cp. artieri ..... 3^ cp.parco campale ...
sez.suss. } ^aut.pes. }	I04^cp.T.e R. e pl.off.per cp.trasporti	248°osped.cam. 50I° " "	I04^ sezione sanità ..... 248° ospedale da campo .. 50I° " " " ..
off.mob.	Off. mob. per Gr.Combattim/		I04^ cp. trasporti e rif. e plotone officina per compagnia trasporti ....
nucl.S.S.	6 ogf.mob.leg		Officina mobile per Gruppo di Combattimento ....
	I04^ dep.mob. per materiale art. e genio		6 off.mobili leggere ....
			I04° deposito mobile per materiale artiglieria e genio .....

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

136

29/32

RESTRICTED

HQ ALLIED AFFAIRS IN ITALY

Tel:- FILPOT 23

1605/50/73/G(SD1)

17 Nov 44

8 copies spare.
G Leave copies

SUBJECT:- Progress Reports on Italian Combt Gps

AFHQ (5)

Copy to:- AMIA (10) G(Arg) Med
DMT (5) RA Ord
'A' RE REME
'Q' 'X' Pro
Q(AE) SI HQ Inf

1. In order that HQ AAI may be kept constantly informed of the state of trg and readiness for battle of the LEGNANO, FOLGORE and MANTOVA Combat Gps it is requested that AFHQ, AMIA and DMT forward periodically progress reports on equipment, organisation and trg as shown at Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' attached.

2. FRIULI and CREMONA Gps

(a) The state of eqpt of these Gps is known to AAI.

(b) AMIA are requested to report on both Gps showing posn at 20 Nov on lines of Appendix 'B'.

(c) DMT is requested to report on the state of trg reached by both Gps and to make recommendations on the trg which should be carried out in the Op Zone prior to the Gps being committed to ops.

1. Confirm that AFHQ accept this.
2. Cancel all other reports.
3. Comply with 2(b)
4. Ask AFHQ if they or we should issue instruction as to 52, 53, 54 on para 1.
5. Please inform is available for 1 Dec.

Harold Alexander Field Marshal

General,
Commander in Chief.

6699

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

Appendix 'A' to 1605/50/73/G(SD1)
dated 17 Nov 44

PROGRESS REPORT BY AFHQ ON EQUIPMENT

.....COMBAT GP

State as at .....

(To be rendered in duplicate to AAI showing posn on 1st, 10th and 20th each month).

PART I

Serial	Item (Controlled Stores & Vehs) (a)	W.E. (b)	Held or Released (c)	Deficient (d)	Estimated Date of Release of Items in Coln (d) (e)

PART II

General State of Non-Controlled Stores and Housekeeping Items (incl razor blades, bivouacs etc).

6698

and estimated date of completion.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

Appendix 'B' to
1605/50/73/G(SD1)
dated 17 Nov 44

PROGRESS REPORT BY HMLA ON ORGANISATION OF PERSONNEL OF

..... COMBAT GP STATE AS AT .....

(To be rendered in duplicate to AAI and AFHQ showing posn
1st, 10th and 20th each month)

PART I - General state of organisation by arms

(to include - percentage strength each arm;
anticipated date of completion;
any special difficulties;
assistance it is considered AFHQ and AAI can give.)

PART II - Specialists and Tradesmen

Type of personnel (a)	W.E. (b)	Numbers trained and held (c)	Deficient (d)	Action being taken to make up deficiencies and anticipated date of completion (e)

1303

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

RESTRICTED

Appendix 'C' to 1605/50/73/3(SD1)
dated / / Nov 44

PROGRESS REPORT BY DMT ON TRG

OF .....COMBAT GP AS AT...

(to be rendered in duplicate to AFHQ and AAI showing poss at 1st, 10th and 20th each month)

PART I - General Progress made to date in each arm

PART II - State of trg of specialists and tradesmen

PART III - Balance of programme to be completed

PART IV - Courses and special trg completed

PART V - Any special difficulties encountered e.g. trg areas, trg ammn.

Subject :- Weekly Reports

SECRET 135

G 6

51 British Liaison Unit

To :- HQ M.M.I.A.

S/Sec
19/11

29 | 32

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44 herewith my seventh report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memorandum on the strength situation as App I to this report.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry

Pl trg has gone well this week. Regts are holding Coy excercises this week involving the taking over of a defensive position. It is hoped to do this on at least Bn level prior to our move from this area. The demonstrations of Pl in the attack for the C in C were well done by both Regts and all ranks display keenness and dash in trg. Care of weapons is very poor and the Chief of Staff states this was a universal fault in the Italian Army. Special attention is being paid to this. On the other hand the British Armourer who - at my orders - inspected a number of rifles of the 22 Regt reports that the weapons were issued in a defective state. This has been reported to the A.I.A. The course at FRIGENTO for carriers and Mortars personnel proceeds satisfactorily.

(ii) Arty

7 Arty Regt are firing this week I Bty fired on 14 and 15 Nov. III Bty will fire on 16 and 17 Nov. Attention is being concentrated on organisation of the gun position and trg of gun detachments. O.P. work will receive attention later. There were many minor faults in gun drill and gun discipline to correct but the results of the first two days firing were satisfactory. Telephone discipline on the range did NOT exist. This is being corrected. M.T. and deployment are to be the principal features of the next two weeks trg. The 6545 Bty will fire on the Coast Range at the School Artillery on 22 Nov. The A.A. Bty - now armed with British guns - will fire at an aeroplane towed sleeve on Nov 17.

(iii) Engineers

Bailey Bridge trg now complete. Pl trg shows up a weakness in the officers. 50% of Weapon trg is complete. A start on explosives trg was made on 15 Nov. Bad weather has seriously

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

exercises this week involving the taking over of a defensive position. It is hoped to do this on at least Bn level prior to our move from this area. The demonstrations of Pl in the attack for the C in C were well done by both Regts and all ranks display keenness and dash in trg. Care of weapons is very poor and the Chief of Staff states this was a universal fault in the Italian Army. Special attention is being paid to this. On the other hand the British Armourer who - at my orders - inspected a number of rifles of the 22 Regt reports that the weapons were issued in a defective state. This has been reported to the A.I.A. The course at FRIGENTO for carriers and Mortars personnel proceeds satisfactorily.

(ii) Arty

7 Arty Regt are firing this week I Bty fired on 14 and 15 Nov. III Bty will fire on 16 and 17 Nov. Attention is being concentrated on organisation of the gun position and trg of gun detachments. O.P. work will receive attention later. There were many minor faults in gun drill and gun discipline to correct but the results of the first two days firing were satisfactory. Telephone discipline on the range did NOT exist. This is being corrected. M.T. and deployment are to be the principal features of the next two weeks trg. The 6595 Bty will fire on the Coast Range at the School Artillery on 22 Nov. The A.A. Bty - now armed with British guns - will fire at an aeroplane towed sleeve on Nov 17.

(iii) Engineers

Bailey Bridge trg now complete. Pl trg shows up a weakness in the officers. 50% of Weapon trg is complete. A start on explosives trg was made on 15 Nov. Bad weather has seriously hampered trg.

(iv) Signals

Lecture on R/T and Slidex was given on Nov 13. Another one will be given shortly. All wireless trucks have been fitted up. Six of the cable trucks are complete and the remainder should be finished tomorrow.

(v) Mechanical Engineers

The prolonged and painful period of gestation continues. Three "Squadra Volante" or flying squads are now operating. These consist of an officer and six mechanics and their role is to repair 1st Echelon troubles in the Gruppo. The O i/c Wksp continues to inspire a complete lack of confidence in himself. I mentioned this industrious but quite inapt officer to Gen BROWNING and I understood that S.M.R.E. are being asked to produce a replacement. Major RONCO who we asked for is NOT available. This is a matter of prime importance.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. RE - EQUIPPING

This proceeds very slowly. There are a large number of utterly essential items which are NOT available but which must be produced if the Gruppo is ever to go into action. I am NOT certain that the entire seriousness of the situation is fully appreciated. Mortars are a case in point. We have drawn half our entitlement of 3" and about $\frac{1}{8}$ of our entitlement of 2". There are no more likely to be available. With the modest Arty strength of the Gruppo it is obviously essential that the troops have at least their full scale of close support weapons. The vehicle situation is serious. The Wksp has been issued with 10x 5 Tonners + 17 x 15 cwts. without canopies, windscreens, tools etc. This unit has a quantity of complicated and expensive stores and machines. These must go somewhere and if placed in these vehicles they are exposed to rain, snow etc. This is a grotesque situation. The General has been issued with an old Staff Car. This has arrived with no seats apart from one for the driver. I consider this as an insult and NOT good for British prestige. It hardly can be contemplated that the Gruppo will move with it's Commander squatting on the floor of a completely bare vehicle. 65% of vehicles issued to the Gruppo are Class 1D. This means that they have NO tools. As NO tools have been issued with other stores we are experiencing definite difficulty in performing ordinary maintenance tasks. This is disheartening in view of the presence here of a team from REME who are giving instruction in maintenance. I would like to emphasise that AFHQ and - to the full ofits limited - capacity - 5 District are co-operative, but that certain essential items are NOT available. IF the Gruppi are to fight they must be equipped.

4. MORALE

669½

The visits of General ALEXANDER and the PRINCE of PIEDMONT roused great interest and had a good effect. I should say morale was good in the Gruppo.

5. GENERAL

The vexed question of Colonel SILVESTRI will be solved during the coming week. The situation is that this officer is NOT entirely satisfactory and this fact is fully realised by Generals PRIMIERI, ZANUSSI, and by the Chief of Staff. Good and battle experienced Colonels are - I understand - in short supply in the Italian Army and the list is being closely examined. Should no good replacement be available we must make the best of SILVESTRI. He is - in my opinion

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785022

65% of vehicles issued to the Gruppi they have NO tools. As NO tools have been issued with other stores we are experiencing definite difficulty in performing ordinary maintenance tasks. This is disheartening in view of the presence here of a team from REME who are giving instruction in maintenance. I would like to emphasise that AFHQ and - to the full ofits limited - capacity - 5 District are co-operative, but that certain essential items are NOT available. IF the Gruppi are to fight they must be equipped.

4. MORALE

669½

The visits of General ALEXANDER and the PRINCE of PIEDMONT roused great interest and had a good effect. I should say morale was good in the Gruppo.

5. GENERAL

The vexed question of Colonel SILVESTRI will be solved during the coming week. The situation is that this officer is NOT entirely satisfactory and this fact is fully realised by Generals PRIMIERI, ZANUSSI, and by the Chief of Staff. Good and battle experienced Colonels are - I understand - in short supply in the Italian Army and the list is being closely examined. Should no good replacement be available we must make the best of SILVESTRI. He is - in my opinion - erractic and temperamental but is also enthusiastic and, I am informed, a brave man in action.

B.W. Nelles Lieut

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

Field
17 Nov 44
BWWC/WWH

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1306

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Progress Report No. 7 APPX I

Week ending 17 Nov 44

Strengths

1 Posted Strengths show a further decrease of about 90 officers and 200 ORs on the week, whilst fighting strengths have risen by about 30 and 220.

Leave

2 The number of men on leave is still high at nearly 1200 but the gradual decrease persists.

Absentees

3 This figure has reached the unprecedented low of 39 ORs. For once no officers are shown as AWOL.

Specialists

4 No material change.

Field
17 Nov 44
RWH/RGT

R Whitaker
Major
DAA & QMG

6693

29/32

COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE

Appx 'D' to 53 B.L.U. letter Ref. A2-16 of 13 Nov. 44. 134

Weekly Progress Report for week ending 18.00 hrs Saturday 1. Nov.44.

1. Organisation.

(a) Officers on W.E. of B.L.U. Up to strength. No change since last report.

(b) Other Ranks on W.E. of B.L.U. No change since last report. Clerks RASC 2 and RCOS 12 deficient.

(c) Combat Group. State is attached. ?

18 Nov

2. Training.

(a) Officers. Training team is now only deficient of 2 officers. Four officers are now out with regiments. Majors Byrne and Fairweather with SAN MARCO and Majors Ashton and Fenn with NEMBO.

(b) Courses. Cadre courses are in operation including a carrier course. Other training is still held up for lack of clothing and boots.

(c) Training Equipment. Most of the training equipment on loan to 51 B.L.U. has been collected from them. Major deficiencies are eight carriers which are under repair and the total number of 2" and 3" mortars. Nearly all the wheeled training vehicles are in a very bad state being either non-runners or in need of repairs lasting several days. As a maintenance scale of vehicles has not been released to this Group and the Italian vehicles available are mostly employed on collecting stores, the number of training vehicles is insufficient to train the numbers of drivers required within a reasonable time. Some training ammunition has been drawn but the bulk is still waiting for collection due to lack of available transport. Already asked AFHQ.

3. Re-equipping.

(a) Clothing. Clothing situation has deteriorated since the last report and promises made by A.F.H.Q. (Q.AE) have not been fulfilled. Although grade III battle dress has been collected and issued to units, it has been found to be very inferior in quality and in many cases completely unserviceable. Boots up to scale have been drawn. These were promised as re-built boots but on examination were found to be almost completely unservicable. They are covered in mud and very little attempt has been made to carry out any repairs. The boots are very often not even made up in pairs. Transport was sent to Bari to collect 10,000 blankets which had been released by A.F.H.Q. and which 3 District had ordered us to collect, on arrival after a long journey only 4,000 blankets were available. These are only 6692 examples of the difficulties we are facing with a small staff and totally inadequate transport.

(b) Vehicles. The vehicle situation is the same as previously reported and needs urgent action. Owing to blown bridges on every route in this area, every journey to collect stores is at least of two days duration. It seems unlikely that any bridges will be repaired although this has been requested.

4. Morale.

Morale has been raised by the issue of small arms, carriers for training and new pullovers up to scale but this is counterbalanced by the failure to meet the very urgent demand for battle dress. Blankets [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

several days. As a maintenance scale of vehicles has not been released to this Group and the Italian vehicles available are mostly employed on collecting stores, the number of training vehicles is insufficient to train the numbers of drivers required within a reasonable time. Some training ammunition has been drawn but the bulk is still waiting for collection due to lack of available transport. Already asked AFHQ.

3. Re-equipping.

(a) Clothing. Clothing situation has deteriorated since the last report and promises made by A.F.H.Q. (Q.AE) have not been fulfilled. Although grade III battle dress has been collected and issued to units, it has been found to be very inferior in quality and in many cases completely unservicable. Boots up to scale have been drawn. These were promised as re-built boots but on examination were found to be almost completely unservicable. They are covered in mud and very little attempt has been made to carry out any repairs. The boots are very often not even made up in pairs. Transport was sent to Bari to collect 10.000 blankets which had been released by A.F.H.Q. and which 3 District had ordered us to collect, on arrival after a long journey only 4.000 blankets were available. These are only a few examples of the difficulties we are facing with a small staff and totally inadequate transport.

(b) Vehicles. The vehicle situation is the same as previously reported and needs urgent action. Owing to blown bridges on every route in this area, every journey to collect stores is at least of two days duration. It seems unlikely that any bridges will be repaired although this has been requested.

4. Morale.

Morale has been raised by the issue of small arms, carriers for training and new pullovers up to scale but this is counterbalanced by the failure to meet the very urgent demand for battle dress, blankets and wheeled vehicles.

The weather has turned very cold during the last few days and the present heavy sick rate will no doubt increase if suitable warm clothing and waterproof sheets are not issued very soon.

The ration scale for Italian troops is very poor and the accommodation for the men is in several cases unfit for winter conditions. R.E. stores to remedy some of the worst billets has been demanded but there seems to be no possibility of this demand being met in the near future.

Unless the very urgent and essential demands of this Group for clothing and vehicles are met very shortly, the scheme for making this Group a successful fighting formation for the Allied Cause will fail.

G. H. Works

Lt. Col.
G.S.

AQ Please see - I propose sending a copy to AFHQ (QAE) & 3 Dist "for information" agree? WD 18 NOV

6692

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET/13

SUBJECT : Weekly Progress Report

8/Sec.

50 Brit Liaison Unit

A/1/26

HQ MMIA

15/11 G/G 29/32.

12 Nov 44

Ref your S/G/29/24 dated 28 Sep 44.

For progress report for fortnight ending 11 Nov 44 please see special report prepared for General BROWNING on 10 Nov. Copy herewith.

ADD

1. General. (a) Officers of all arms and of all ranks apparently have no conception of their responsibility for care, cleaning and maintenance of arms, equipment and vehs.

(b) Further progress now depends on the opportunities afforded to and ability of officers to get down to detail and to improve their at present inadequate general knowledge of their profession.

2. Morale (a) Leave and absenteeism. This problem will most undoubtedly assume very alarming proportions unless positive and early steps are taken to authorise leave for really large numbers of men, particularly if near their homes further north, and to provide tpt to and from their home areas for all leave parties.

This may appear unnecessary and 'soft', but in my opinion, as expressed in my report dated 1 Oct, stands that anything up to 25% of the Gp may desert when we go north unless something is done.

(b) Rations. Complaints of inadequacy persist and there is an erroneous belief abroad that rations will be increased in the line.

WP

CMF
ARCS/SYB

App'd Sout. Cy
6691
Lt Col
GS

132

PACIFIC OCEAN GROUP

50 Brit Liaison Unit
GHQ

SUBJECT : State of Readiness as at 14 Nov 44.

(1) Personnel

(a) Officers.

(i) At present 23 over establishment.

(ii) Replacements demanded but not yet received for 10 inefficient senior offrs.

(iii) Five senior offrs posted to Gp but not yet joined.

(iv) General Standards.

Regt Comds Inf - satisfactory

Regt Comds Arty - doubtful (very set in old, bad, Italian ways).

Bn and equivalent Comds.- tactically weak and not yet allowed sufficient scope by Regt Comds

Coy and equivalent Comds - tactically weak and not yet allowed sufficient scope by Bn Comds.

Pl and equivalent Comds - 60% good material, 40% below standard.

(b) Other Ranks.

(i) At present 500 over strength (NZ 1 including 5% Int Pte but EXCLUDING 270 sick), but, 470 NZ expected to move with [illegible] (Temp 320 Leave (month) [illegible] 150).

6690

(ii) NCOs - quite good.

(iii) Rank and File - Excellent material if well led.

(c) Specialists.

(i) Dvrs wheeled

Estab	1,015
Deficient	250

(ii) [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Regt Comds Inf - satisfactory

Regt Comds Arty - doubtful (very set in old, bad, Italian ways).

Bn and equivalent Comds.- tactically weak and not yet allowed sufficient scope by Regt Comds

Coy and equivalent Comds - tactically weak and not yet allowed sufficient scope by Bn Comds.

Pl and equivalent Comds - 60% good material, 40% below standard.

(b) Other Ranks.

(i) At present 500 over strength: (NOT including 5% 1st Rfts but INCLUDE 6 270 sick), but, 470 NOT expected to move within [illegible] (Hosp 320 Leave (apptd) [illegible] 150).

6690

(ii) NCOs - quite good.

(iii) Rank and File - Excellent material if well led.

(c) Specialists.

(i)	Dvrs wheeled	Estab	1,016
		Deficient	250
(ii)	Dvrs tracked	Estab	223
		Deficient	120
(iii)	Motor Mechs	Estab	200
		Deficient	35
(iv)	Ops W/T	Estab	250
		Deficient	175
(v)	Ops Director Arty	Estab	100
		Deficient	30
(vi)	Armourers	Estab	80
		Deficient	47

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(2) Equipment

(a) Small arms complete except for :-

Mortars 3" - 50% deficient
Mortars 2" - 66% deficient
PeIAT - 50% deficient

(b) Arty substantially complete except for :-

Directors No 7 - 50% deficient

(c) Sigs substantially complete

(d) Misc substantially complete except for :-

Binoculars 50% deficient.

(e) Vehs

(i) Supply substantially complete except for :-

Cars 1t Recce 35 deficient (100%)
Certain Specialist Vehs.

(ii) Availability MOST UNSATISFACTORY entirely due to inability to obtain instructors in driving and maint, and lack of trained mechs.

25% (plus) off road for repairs
5% BER

(f) Clothing and necessaries - Satisfactory except for :-

Blankets		8000	deficient
Boots	prs	1300	"
Socks	prs	2000	"
Mess-tins, knife, fork, spoon		9000	"

6689

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(3) Trg

(a) Inf.

(i) Individual trg satisfactory

(ii) Tactical trg lacks sound ground work, offrs and men of this gp having been apparently entirely 'out to grass' for nearly three years, and time for instruction of Unit Lines being inadequate.

(iii) In accordance with Inf Div motive, emphasis in trg placed on holding a defensive position, counter-attacks up to Coy level.

(iv) Bn exercises on these lines with live ammn, with ATk guns under cond, and 25 prs in support carried out during last week. Results most disappointing.
Practically no idea of a fire plan was shown, ATk layout was childish and very little attempt was made to dig in properly.

(b) Arty.

(i) 25 prs slow in getting on to target and control of fire weak and ragged owing largely to failure to decentralise.

(ii) Ammn uncertain.

(iii) Regt concentration has been fired with some success. Btys have fired frequently in support of Inf.

(iv) ATk - good

(v) AA - good.

(c) Engineers.

(i) Satisfactory on the trg ground but require much opportunity for practical application under service conditions.
Unwilling to work at night or in bad weather.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

[redacted] Practically no idea of a fire plan was shown, AT: layout was childish and very little attempt was made to dig in properly.

(b) Arty.

(i) 25 prs slow in getting on to target and control of fire weak and ragged owing largely to failure to decentralise.

(ii) Comm uncertain.

(iii) Regt concentration has been fired with some success. Bty have fired frequently in support of Inf.

(iv) MT: - good

(v) AA - good.

(c) Engineers.

(i) Satisfactory on the tug ground but require much opportunity for practical application under service conditions.
Unwilling to work at night or in bad weather. 6688

(d) Sigs.

(i) Part of ops. but on whole satisfactory.

(ii) Offrs weak on procedure. Ops too talkative.

(e) Maps.

(i) Keen, but badly handicapped by lack of any previously trained personnel.

(f) Adm.Coy - good.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Chief General Weaknesses.

(i) Lack of basic adl knowledge at all levels.

(ii) Shortness of time available to impart the essential basic principles.

(iii) Unwillingness of Senior Offrs to decentralise.

(iv) Unwillingness of subordinates to accept or assume responsibility.

(sgd) ARC Southby, Lt col
GS

CHF
ARCS/HF

6687

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Weekly Report

SECRET

131

51 British Liaison Unit

G 6

To :- HQ M.M.I.A.

S/See 29/32 13"

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44 herewith my sixth report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memorandum on the strength situation as Appendix I to this report.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry

The first week of Section trg has gone quite well. The Carrier and Mortar Pl trg has proceeded more satisfactorily at FRIGENTO. The II/22 Regt have got a new C.O. who is a marked improvement. This whole Regt tends to form mass and present arms at the least provocation. This may be due to the Grenadier background of Col. SILVESTRI. I have spoken about this. More attention has been paid to Rifle handling this week.

(ii) Arty

Individual trg ends this week. The Regt works well and has an excellent morale. We hope to fire next week as the various essential parts are at last released. The Signallers are shaping well. The M.T. organisation is weak and is receiving attention. The A.A. Bty are to exchange their guns for British ones next week. This will hold things up there in the trg line.

(iii) Engineers

75% of the Fd Coys have completed bridging and Mine Warfare trg. 25% have completed Weapon trg. Half an hours drill a day is now being done by the Genio as they were outstandingly the worst disciplined body in the Gruppo.

(iv) Signals

The Teleradio Coy has been installing sets in vehs, 10 have been completed. The I.M. have repaired several sets sent in from Inf and Arty. As soon as Test Instrs and some spares arrive they will be able to do much more. Slidex has been issued to units.

6686

(v) Mechanical Engineers

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

The first week of Section trg has gone quite well. The Carrier and Mortar Pl trg has proceeded more satisfactorily at FRIGENTO. The II/22 Regt have got a new C.O. who is a marked improvement. This whole Regt tends to form mass and present arms at the least provocation. This may be due to the Grenadier background of Col. SILVESTRI. I have spoken about this. More attention has been paid to Rifle handling this week.

(ii) Arty

Individual trg ends this week. The Regt works well and has an excellent morale. We hope to fire next week as the various essential parts are at last released. The Signallers are shaping well. The M.T. organisation is weak and is receiving attention. The A.A. Bty are to exchange their guns for British ones next week. This will hold things up there in the trg line.

(iii) Engineers

75% of the Fd Coys have completed bridging and Mine Warfare trg. 25% have completed Weapon trg. Half an hours drill a day is now being done by the Genio as they were outstandingly the worst disciplined body in the Gruppo.

(iv) Signals

The Teleradio Coy has been installing sets in vehs, 10 have been completed. The I.M. have repaired several sets sent in from Inf and Arty. As soon as Test Instrs and some spares arrive they will be able to do much more. Slidex has been issued to units.

6686

(v) Mechanical Engineers

The Mobile Wksps has been established at CHIANCHE STATION The two recovery teams who are working under 65 HAA Wksp are having a lot of practice and showing signs of improvement. I am convinced that this organisation will NEVER work unless a team of British REME personnel are attd. for a considerable period. DADME 5 Dist is in agreement and has approached AFHQ for the personnel to be loaned. Some 12 tradesmen are required.

A team of British REME Armourers have been conducting a course here. This is going well and the students are keen and efficient.

5. Re-Equipping

90% of essential re-equipping is completed. Essential items still deficient are 3" and 2" Mortars and Arty Directors. The scaling and re-equipping of the O.F.P. has still to be done. This cannot be started until the veh equipping is complete. The Mobile Wksp has a large deficiency.7 recovery vehs are short. This is serious.

The Sigs Coy is short of Test Instruments though a few have been released today.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

4. Morale

This continues good. The Gruppo played the I.R.T.D. at Soccer last Saturday. An excellent match with no untoward incident. Gruppo team was given a hot shower and tea with the I.R.T.D. team after the match. Col. STOTT was good enough to entertain Gen PRIMIERI and Col. OTTONE in his mess after the match. This pleased the Italians considerably.

5. General

It cannot be denied that despite efforts on the part of the B.L.U. and the Trg Increment, trg has been interfered with this week by the anticipated Royal visit.

We have obtained the services of a Cpl of C.M.P. from 3 Dist to help and advise the CC.RR and also to keep an eye on the Allied soldiers who stray into ALTAVILLA occasionally.

Field
9 Nov 44
BWWC/WWH

B.W. Wellsmith

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

APPENDIX I

PROGRESS REPORT FOR W/E 10 NOV 44

STRENGTHS

1. The posted strength of the division has dropped by a further 100 this week whilst the numbers actually present is virtually unchanged. This is good as it means we are cutting away deadwood.

The usual detailed strength state is att at ANNX A

2. SPECIALISTS

Practically no change. Detailed posn at ANNX B

3. ABSENTEES

Its a pity that this figure has again crept up and now stands at over 650. However of these only 44 are declared deserters the remainder having overstayed their leave.

4. LEAVE

The number of men on leave decreases daily and on the week shows a drop of 600. I am now looking forward to the time when we shall show a modest 5% only on leave - and during the period in which we move I should welcome a complete shut down on all leave. In view of the large numbers that have so far been sent on leave I do NOT feel this would cause any hardship and at least it would avoid the complication of men returning from leave to find the division moved to a new location.

5. SICK

The latest return shows a marked improvement - detailed state at ANNX C

R.W. Walsh

Major,
DAA & QMG.

Field
10 Nov 44
RWH/WWH

6681

130

COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE

Appx C to
53 B.L.U. letter
Ref A2-15 of
6 Nov.44.

29/32

Progress Report for week ending 18.00 h. Saturday 4 Nov.44.

1. ORGANISATION.

(a) Officers on W.E. of B.L.U. B.L.U. is up to strength and all officers are present with the unit.

(b) Other ranks on W.E. of B.L.U. Two clerks RASC are still deficient but part of the deficiency of Signals personnel has been made up by the arrival of seven operators and one elctrician signals.

(c) Combat Group. Personnel surplus to W.E. have been reduced and the situation, according to the latest return, is satisfactory with regard to other ranks but a reduction in officers must be effected.

2. TRAINING.

(a) G II Training is present with this unit and three majors of the training increment are out with regiments, one with 'Nembo' and two with the 'San Marco' Regt. DMT has promised to complete the training team in due course, but a delay is expected if really suitable officers are to be obtained.

(b) Cadre courses are in operation but it is impossible to employ the bulk of the Group on useful training until boots and socks are obtained. It is expected that boots will be available shortly but they will be of no use until socks are issued and there is no immediate possibility of this demand being met.

(c) Certain training equipment has been drawn since the last report, this includes 16 carriers and 8 three ton lorries from 51 BLU. The carriers are generally in a very satisfactotry condition but wheeled vehicles are very poor and in almost in every case require considerable time spent on them before they are fit enough to be used for training. The question of the shortage of wheeled vehicles both for training and domestic duties has been already brought to your notice, see this H.Q. letter ref. Q6-11 of 4 Nov.44., and it is repeated that it will be impossible to train the 350 drivers required to make this Group fit for war unless a further issue of vehicles in good condition is made.

AFHQ

3. RE - EQUIPPING.

(a) The clothing situation has been greatly improved during the past week. Pullovers have been issued to the Group and Grade III battle dress up to scale has been collected and is ready to issue to units. It has not been possible to obtain a release of Grade I battle dress from A.F.H.Q. and the Group are naturally disappointed about this especially as the first two battle groups obtained Grade I clothing. Grade III battle dress is fairly satisfactory but suits vary in condition and there is no doubt that as an issue of Grade I clothing is most unlikely to be forthcoming, a large proportion of the Grade III clothing will have to be replaced on completion of the training period. It is expected that most of our demands will be met in the near future but there is an urgent demand for socks and woollen

6683

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

[illegible] has promised to complete the training team in due course, but a delay is expected if really suitable officers are to be obtained.

(b) Cadre courses are in operation but it is impossible to employ the bulk of the Group on useful training until boots and socks are obtained. It is expected that boots will be available shortly but they will be of no use until socks are issued and there is no immediate possibility of this demand being met.

(c) Certain training equipment has been drawn since the last report, this includes 16 carriers and 8 three ton lorries from 51 BLU. The carriers are generally in a very satisfactotry condition but wheeled vehicles are very poor and in almost in every case require considerable time spent on them before they are fit enough to be used for training. The question of the shortage of wheeled vehicles both for training and domestic duties has been already brought to your notice, see this H.Q. letter ref. Q6-11 of 4 Nov.44., andit is repeated that it will be impossible to train the 350 drivers required to make this Group fit for war unless a further issue of vehicles in good condition is made.

AFHQ

3. RE - EQUIPPING.

(a) The clothing situation has been greatly improved during the past week. Pullovers have been issued to the Group and Grade III battle dress up to scale has been collected and is ready to issue to units. It has not been possible to obtain a release of Grade I battle dress from A.F.H.Q. and the Group are naturally disappointed about this especially as the first two battle groups obtained Grade I clothing. Grade III battle dress is fairly satisfactory but suits vary in condition and there is no doubt that as an issue of Grade I clothing is most unlikely forthcoming, a large proportion of the Grade III clothing will have to be replaced on completion of the training period. It is expected that most of our demands will be met in the near future but there is an urgent demand for socks and groundsheets, both of which are not available at present.

6883

(b) Vehicles. The vehicle situation has been taken up with you and A.F.H.Q. see this H.Q. letter referred to above and there is nothing further to add except to re-iterate that the situation as it stands at present is most unsatisfactory and that unless a change in the existing plan for the issue of vehicles to groups is made, large numbers of a G 1098 scale of vehicles will be written off owing the impossibility of training the number of drivers required.

4. MORALE.

Morale is good and troops are still cheerful inspite of very trying conditions after an exceptionally wet week. Groundsheets and RE stores to make billets more weather-proof are urgently required and there seems to be no immediate hope of either of these demands being met.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

11322

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Weekly Report

SECRET 129

51 British Liaison Unit

G 6

S/Sec
W 32
7 11

To :- HQ M.M.I.A.

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44 herewith my fifth report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memoradum on the strength situation as Appendix I to this report. I hope you will be able to prevent the Reinforcement Camp at ALIFE unloading the men we have sent to them back on this Gruppo. My A 2/1 dated 2 Nov refers.

2. TRAINING

All trg has been seriously hampered this week by unusually heavy and continuous rain. Owing to the shortage of buildings and tentage there is no satisfactory solution to the problem of wet weather.

(i) Infantry

Individual trg has continued. The men still show weakness in handling the rifle and increased attention is being given to this. I have attended today a demonstration at the Carriers and Mortar Camp at FRIGENTO. This was NOT impressive. My Trg Major at the Camp has NOT had the amount of co-operation necessary either from Regts or from the officers with him on detachment. The Regtl Staffs seem to think that if a portion of their Regt leaves their immediate vicinity it is no longer a responsibility of theirs. The Italian Junior Officers on the Det have NOT shone. I have spoken to the Chief of Staff about the Regtl Staffs and addressed a few words to the young officers this afternoon. The Comd of the Arty A/Tk Bty is supervising the trg of the Infantry 6 Pdr Gun crews.

(ii) Arty

I submit a report on the Trg progress of the 7 Arty Regt by my S.O.R.A. as Appendix II to this report. The trg is slow owing to lack of equipment. The whole officer organisation of the Arty Regt is unsatisfactory with a glut of administration officers who never leave their offices. I am going into this matter and will address you separately on it.

(iii) Engineers

Four Pls have completed Bailey Bridge trg. 50% of the Genio have completed Mine trg. Weapon trg started on Oct 30. All drivers have done a two days course on the task system, and two N.C.Os. are having a weeks attachment to 65 HAA Wksp from 30 Oct to 4 Nov.

6682

The trg area of the Genio was swept by the river in flood on the night of Oct 25, at the rate of about 15 knots and to a depth of 3 feet. The Mine Museum was swept away and provided some practical work in Mine Detection next day.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(iv) Signals
Trg in the Signals Coy has been rather restricted this week owing to Weapon Trg and the bad weather. The 19 sets are being installed in vehs and trg in these starts next week. The telephonists are shaping well. A new procedure - standard to all Gruppi and an exact cppy of the British procedure - has been issued to all units. A demonstration of Slidex, security and R.T. procedure to all officers at Gruppo HQ and reps from units has been arranged.

(v) Mechanical Engineers
Courses for Mechanics continue at the 65 HAA Wksp which has now a number of Italian tradesmen working on it. Two recovery vehs with crews belonging to the Gruppo are now at the 65 Wksp. The Gruppo is NOT backward in providing these teams with practical experience.

3. RE - EQUIPPING
Stores have been coming in well. Blankets and some items in clothing still not available. Veh receipts are now well over the 50% mark. Signal stores are still short and no testing instruments have been received. The Signal Coy have no instruments of their own and are unable to do any repairs whatever.

4. MORALE
On Nov 1st which is the Regtl Feast Day the two Inf Regts paraded in battle dress for the first time. Turnout was good slightly marred by a large school of thought headed by the General who wore anklets web the wrong way round. There is a definite feeling among the rank and file that they are being asked to do more work than their rations cater for. I have drawn attention to this before but I consider that it is a factor affecting morale.

5. GENERAL
The improvement in the 22ndRegt continues but I think the C.O. of the IIIrd Bn. of that Regt will have to go. He is a pleasant old gentleman but quite ineffectual. The new Chief of Staff - Col PEDERZANI - is a great improvement but I feel that his advent has if anything increased the extravagant centralisation which distinguishes Italian Staff methods. I note a tendency in all branches to lean on the B.L.U. and Trg Increment to an excessive degree. Improvement in driving and traffic discipline continues but there is room for a lot more. The S.I.B. Sjt assisted by the C.C.R.R. apprehended two more deserters on 28 Oct. Arrest was resisted and the S.I.B. Sjt shot one deserter in the thigh.

Field
4 Nov 44
BWMC/WWH

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

6681

"A" BRANCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 3 NOV 4

APP I

51 British Liaison Unit

Strengths

1. (a) The most important feature this week is the reduction in the number of absentees that were being carried on units strengths.

(b) About 700 men shown as absentees and still held held on the posted strength of the division have been struck off.

(c) The 200 odd men still shown as absent are in the "Overdue from Leave" category. In many cases the transport difficulty will surely account for their failing to return on time.

(d) Att at Annxs 1 & 2 are detailed strength and specialist deficiency states as at 1800 hrs 2 Nov.

Sick

2. A census of the hospital admissions at 30 Oct shows a total of 523 men in hospital.

Surprisingly enough, of this figure 308 were from 21 Inf Regt.

3. The most prevalent causes for hospitalisation excluding minor ailments and cases under observation seem to be, Malaria, Scabies and Parotitis in that order.

In each of these the majority emanated from 21 Inf Regt., though in the case of Malaria it may be largely explained by the locality from which the men in the Regt., were drawn.

4 - V D rate is gratifying low - only 12 cases in the division being reported.

5 (a) Sick figures are to be watched particularly carefully for the next few weeks in the hope of throwing some light on the apparent disproportionate share contributed by 21 Inf Regt. It may be the honesty of this fmn that has resulted in its comparing so unfavourably with the remainder of the div.

(b) I have suggested to the Chief of Staff that in future we seek info regarding Sick from Med Sources rather than units.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PERSONNEL

6 This matter has already been raised in my signal to MMIA ref A 2/1 dated 2 Nov.

7 It will be a pity of we are unable to unload our surplus personnel on to the reinforcement regiment, but it will be a minor calamity if we are compelled to take in still further reinforcements at this stage.

8 The Div Comd and Chief of Staff at long last have been prevailed upon to shed some of these surplus personnel. Previously their attitude has been "wait until we see how many men return from hospital and absence and then we will keep only the best." Now they are ruthlessly striking off anyone who has been away the requisite number of days no matter how well the personnel concerned may be regarded.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

In each of these the majority emanated from 21 Inf Regt., though in the case of Malaria it may be largely explained by the locality from which the men in the Regt., were drawn.

4 - V D rate is gratifying low - only 12 cases in the division being reported.

5 (a) Sick figures are to be watched particularly carefully for the next few weeks in the hope of throwing some light on the apparent disproportionate share contributed by 21 Inf Regt. It may be the honesty of this fmn that has resulted in its comparing so unfavourably with the remainder of the div.
(b) I have suggested to the Chief of Staff that in future we seek infn regarding Sick from Med Sources rather than units.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PERSONNEL

6 This matter has already been raised in my signal to MMIA ref A 2/1 dated 2 Nov.

7 It will be a pity of we are unable to unload our surplus personnel on to the reinforcement regiment, but it will be a minor calamity if we are compelled to take in still further reinforcements at this stage.

8 The Div Comd and Chief of Staff at long last have been prevailed upon to shed some of these surplus personnel. Previously their attitude has been "wait until we see how many men return from hospital and absence and then we will keep only the best." Now they are ruthlessly striking off anyone who has been away the requisite number of days no matter how well the personnel concerned are regarded.

9 It's almost certain that if fresh reinforcements arrive at this juncture the Div Comd will return to his previous outlook and we shall again be faced with enormous surpluses. Also as mentioned in the Signal referred to above, units attempting to org their personnel in accordance with W E will be confused beyond belief.

10 To say nothing of clothing.

11 (a) If MMIA can arrange not only to present fresh rfts coming, but also for us to send our surplus personnel to the depot it will be of great assistance.
(b) Otherwise if this is NOT possible may we, as suggested on the signal, post our surpluses to the depot but keep them on the attached strength of the div. This will at least keep the position fairly clear.

Field
4 Nov 44
RWH/WWH

R.W. Hatch
Major
DAA & QMG

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

APP II

Subject :- Progress Reports - 7 Arty Regt - No. 4

To :- G S O I
51 British Liaison Unit.

1. 25-pr batteries. There has been comparatively little change since my last report. The party which has gone to collect the outstanding 20 25-prs has not yet returned. G 1098 maintenance stores have not yet been issued, so DADOS is endeavouring to hasten them.

2. Signallers. The signallers are making progress now. A few wireless trucks have been received, and we shall get the sets fitted in as soon as possible so as to be able to run exercises. Communication by wireless between RHQ and batteries is practised regularly with good results.

3. Anti-Tank Battery. Making good progress. I have asked the Regtl Comd to have the range and targets ready for the anti-tank battery next week. Sub-calibre shooting is going well. The battery now requires practice in shooting, deployment, maintenance and night work. All tractors are expected today, so driving and vehicle maintenance will receive special attention.

4. Anti-Aircraft Battery. Progress satisfactory. All tractors have arrived together with some 15 cwts and 3 tonners. I propose to fire the guns on the anti-tank range so as to give the gunners some practical experience. I hope this can be done next week.

5. General

(a) A certain amount of time has been lost this week due to the heavy rains, and the time taken to restore the camps which were flooded. Bridge and road building are occupying many men who should be training. They have, however, restored communication with the field batteries which were entirely cut off at one time. Nov 1st - All Saints Day - is a "Festa" and no training is being done. Stores distribution and road work, however, are still continuing.

(b) I am still dissatisfied because xxx things are going so slowly. For example, we are training with 4 directors instead of 20, 11 25-pr guns instead of 32, no oil pumps, etc. As stated above DADOS is having a drive to get the balance of our stores as quickly as possible.

Field

Major R A

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

4. Anti-Aircraft Battery. Progress satisfactory. All tractors have arrived together with some 15 cwts and 3 tonners. I propose to fire the guns on the anti-tank range so as to give the gunners some practical experience. I hope this can be done next week.

5. General

(a) A certain amount of time has been lost this week due to the heavy rains, and the time taken to restore the camps which were flooded. Bridge and road building are occupying many men who should be training. They have, however, restored communication with the field batteries which were entirely cut off at one time. Nov 1st - All Saints Day - is a "Festa" and no training is being done. Stores distribution and road work, however, are still continuing.

(b) I am still dissatisfied because xxx things are going so slowly. For example, we are training with 4 directors instead of 20, 11 25-pr guns instead of 32, no oil pumps, etc. As stated above DADOS is having a drive to get the balance of our stores as quickly as possible.

Field
2 Nov 44
JBS/FEM

Major R A
51 British Liaison Unit

Distribution :- G S O I
A/Q
OC RA Trg Team (Italian Forces)
File
Spare

6624

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1328

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE

Rec'd 24 Oct WP 128

Progress Report for week ending 1800 hrs Saturday 28.10.44

G.1. AQ. } To see WP 4 Nov.

Appx F to 53 B.L.U.

Letter ref. A2-12

Oct 44

WP

1. ORGANISATION

(a) Officers on WE of B.L.U. The B.L.U. is now up to strength in officers - Major Marks G.S.O.II and Captain Winton RE joined the unit at the end of the week and in addition Lt. Callaghan was attached from Re-allocation Centre (authority A.F.H.Q.G.1(Br) C.A/31/A-10(4)) as temporary Camp Commandant.

(b) Other Ranks on WE of B.L.U. Situation as given last week is unchanged and two clerks RASC and all R.C.O.S. are still deficient. As pointed out in my last report, the Signals personnel especially are required forthwith as G.1098 Signals equipment has now been drawn.

(c) Combat Group. Most units in the Group are still over strength both in officers and in other ranks - Instructions have been given by this HQ for the reduction in strengths but there is some reluctance and delay in compliance. There are certain difficulties, such as lack of tpt and the large number of personnel affected, which are recognised but the situation is being watched especially with regard to the issue of clothing which may well be issued to personnel held over establishment.

Men Burnham to take up. SNCO

6678

2. TRAINING

(a) GII training - (Major Harris) and one officer of the training increment are now with the unit. D.M.T. has promised to complete the team by about the end of next week, which will be satisfactory. Two more of the team ~~attended~~ have reported this week-end, ~~but have not appeared at present.~~

(b) Certain training stores have been drawn, these are rifles, T.M.Gs. Bren guns and mines. Several items of the scale of training equipment issued to 51 B.L.U. by D.M.T. have been collected. These comprise Artillery equipment; Carriers, transport and some other small items will be collected next week. The chief item which 51 B.L.U. cannot release at present are both types of ~~mortars~~ mortars, as they cannot yet obtain their G.1098 ~~mortars~~ mortars.

(c) A training conference of regimental and battalion commanders has been held and training will commence on Monday 30.10.44. A satisfactory number of Benevento trained instructors are available and the chief difficulties are expected to be lack of M.T. and suitable training accomodation, rain and lack of clothing.

11329.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. RE-EQUIPPING.

(a) Clothing, blankets and boots are still urgently required and so far in spite of numerous journeys not a single issue, except for 700 blankets, has been obtained. An urgent demand for groundsheets, boots, socks and pullovers as per para 3 (c) of my last report is still outstanding but a promise of it being met early next week has been made. An issue of Grade II battle dress is also expected during the week.
Clothing is a matter of extreme urgency and importance as the general state of the group is deplorable and is becoming worse as reinforcements arriving, especially in the case of the San Marco Regt., have in many cases reported without any footwear, in civilian clothes or in the remains of tropical uniforms without blankets and other necessities.

(b) Vehicles. The training scale of vehicles is gradually improving with regard to numbers but condition is very poor.
The maintenance scale of vehicles has not been obtained and although a number of Italian vehicles are in possession of units, a large proportion are off the road. This means that collection of stores presents great difficulties.
The B.L.U. transport is most inadequate and is generally in poor condition. Our difficulties have increased with the arrival of the full W.E. of the BLU, the journeys essential for the collection of stores, and the arrival of part of the training team who have at present no transport of their own. The increase put forward by O.C. 51 B.L.U. is urgently required by this B.L.U. as our distances are greater and roads in worse condition in this area.
The issue of Class V vehicles as well as the poor condition of the Italian vehicles presents an impossible situation with regard to repair within the group, as the workshops are lacking tools, equipment, spares and covered workshops or Aldershot shelters and are in need of complete re-organisation before they can work to anything like their capacity.

6677

4. MORALE

The most urgent demand is still clothing, boots and blankets and unless our demands are met in a very short time, morale, which has been very good in spite of the most trying conditions, will suffer irreparably. British prestige is also suffering as a result of failing to remedy an impossible situation within what would appear to be a reasonable time.

L. H. Brooks.

Lt. Col.

G.S.

Subject :- Weekly Repo

SECRET

127

51 British Liaison Unit

G 6

M.M.I.A. S/562
FILE REF. 1
Date Recd 22/11

To :- HQ M.M.I.A.

Seen WP

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44 herewith my third weekly report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memorandum on the Strength situation as App I to this report.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry.

Training in both Regts. has proceeded satisfactorily Firing of all weapons has been done this week with adequate results. The 3" Mortar firing was good. The hours devoted to training has necessarily been curtailed as the issue of clothing & Equipment has been taking place in both Regts. Officers classes have gone on and the students are keen and receptive. A recce is being carried out today for a site for a Carrier Camp in the FRIGENTO area. It is proposed to send the Carrier Pls of both Regts out to this camp for 10 days trg. The area round ALTAVILLA is of course, most unsuitable for Carrier or indeed any form of trg except individual and section.

(ii) Arty

I submit a report by my S.O.R.A. on trg in the 7 Arty Regt as App II to this report - it speaks for itself.

(iii) Engineers

The new Comd Genio - Maggiore PODESTA - arrived on 13 Oct and assumed command. He seems a live wire.

Bailey Bridge - One Pl has completed the curtailed programme
- Two Pls are now under trg with the 6 day programme having started on 16 Oct

Mine Warfare - One Pl commenced their 6 day course on 16 Oct a second Pl will commence on 19 Oct. An excellent little Mine museum has been set up which is of great interest to all arms of the Gruppo.

6676

(iv) Mechanical Engrs

Apart from reasonably large numbers of personnel from all arms who have attended courses on maintenance and inspection at 65 Wksp, a large number of the Italian R.E.M.E. are now receiving useful instruction.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

out today for a site for a Carrier Camp in the FRIGENTO area. It is proposed to send the Carrier Pls of both Regts out to this camp for 10 days trg. The area round ALTAVILLA is of course, most unsuitable for Carrier or indeed any form of trg except individual and section.

(ii) Arty

I submit a report by my S.O.R.A, on trg in the 7 Arty Regt as App II to this report - it speaks for itself.

(iii) Engineers

The new Comd Genio - Maggiore PODESTA - arrived on 13 Oct and assumed command. He seems a live wire.

Bailey Bridge - One Pl has completed the curtailed programme
- Two Pls are now under trg with the 6 day programme having started on 16 Oct

Mine Warfare - One Pl commenced their 6 day course on 16 Oct a second Pl will commence on 19 Oct. An excellent little Mine museum has been set up which is of great interest to all arms of the Gruppo.

6676

(iv) Mechanical Engrs

Apart from reasonably large numbers of personnel from all arms who have attended courses on maintenance and inspection at 65 Wksp, a large number of the Italian R.E.M.E. are now receiving useful instruction.

During the past 10 days six veh mechanics have passed out well 1st class workers. Their technical ability was favourably commented upon. Two electricians and a welder have also passed their tests well.

On 19 Oct a further electrician and welder started a 10 days course. Four Driver mechanics are attending a course on recovery and the use of the Crane, Winch, Block and Tackle.

(v) Transport

Little trg has been done owing to heavy transport committments collecting stores etc. The standard of driving in the Gruppo shows a marked improvement this week.

3. RE - EQUIPPING

A report on this subject is att as App III.

4. MORALE

Morale continues good. I am a trifle concerned about the marked inferiority of the 22nd Regt to the 21st. I have not quite made up my mind whether it is that the 21st Regt is so outstanding or whether the 22nd Regt is really below the standard to be expected.

c ont Sheet 2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

I have at last achieved meeting Col. SILVESTRI the Comd - of the 22nd Regt. An unattractive personality who is NOT popular in his unit. He comes from a Granatieri Regt which has - as you know - a high standard. I have been unable to discuss the matter with the General owing to the prolonged absence of the M.M.I.A. L.O.

5. GENERAL

On the 18 Oct Brig. KENCHINGTON, the D.M.T. lectured all available officers in Italian. This was a marked success. The really effective work of this B.L.U. is much hampered by lack of tpt. This matter is, I know, receiving yout attention but it is infuriating to be hamstrung at this vital period by lack of a few vehs.

Lt. Col. GAUDIOSO the Ex - Chief of Staff has been posted as a Bty Comd to the 7 Arty Regt. I am not at all sure that this is not a case of finding a place for this officer on the best "Old Boy" standards as is, I believe, not unknown in our own Army. My S.O.R.A. is keeping an eye on this officer.

The new Chief of Staff Col. PEDERZANI arrives with a good reputation for being a martinet. Direct access to the General by members of my Staff now ceases and they see the Chief of Staff instead. This strikes me as very suitable. I - of course - have direct access to the General still.

The General and his staff have co-operated most willingly with the B.L.U. to raise the standard of driving. As noted above the improvement is marked.

6675

Field
20 Oct 44
BWWC/WWH

B.W. Wellsmith

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1333

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

App x I to Progress Report WE 20 Oct 44

N.A.R.A.
FILE REF
Date Rec'd

STRENGTHS

1 The strength of the division has continued to increase during the week: due to the arrival of Partisan Recruits. SHAEF have been requested to stop this - at the moment unwanted - flow of Rfts.

2 Most units are showing strengths in excess of WE but actual numbers present in concentration area are considerably lower. A detailed strength state is att at Annex A.

Specialists

3 (a) The week has been notable for the marked improvement shewn in the specialists posn.
(b) So far as the main trades are concerned the deficiencies are as shewn at Annex B.
(c) You will have received the Daily Bulk Specialist Deficiency Return.

6674

APP II

Subject :- Progress Reports - 7 Artillery Rest - No 2

To :-
S O 1
51 British Liaison Unit

1 Gunners - 25-pr

(a) Gun drill has been smartened up in the last week. Laying is improving, but is still slow. When each battery has 8 guns instead of 2 it will be possible to practice so many more men at a time.

(b) Although we are making every effort to press on with individual training, and to get the maximum benefit out of each day's instruction, there are many vital things on which we have not yet made a start owing to lack of equipment ; for example, practical gun maintenance, sight testing, filling and charging, occupation of positions, night laying.

(6) Most of the gun stores should be available this week. I am informed that twenty 25-prs are not available at Naples, but must be collected from Barletta. Due to shortage of vehicles, and the fact that collection from Barletta is a four day job, we shall not have the complete issue of 25-prs before next week.

MOLFETTA

(d) In spite of the keen-ness of officers and other ranks, training is going too slowly, and there are too many subjects in which no progress at all has been made. We are not as far advanced as I hoped we should be by the third week of October. The training equipment at our disposal has been insufficient.

6673

2 Drivers. Very little progress. No training scale of Field Artillery tractors has yet been made available, and the drivers have not yet seen these machines. An urgent request for these tractors was made to D M T on 29 Sep.

3 Specialists

They are doing as much as the limited equipment allows. Eight or ten NCOs round one artillery board can not progress as fast as they need to do. The scarcity of directors and absence of stands is a serious handicap.

4 Signallers

Signal training courses have started this week. Only sufficient equipment for the courses has been issued so far. 22 sets and batteries are not available. I expect it will be at least another fortnight before we have any signallers available to commence field exercises.

5 Anti-aircraft battery

Concentrated mainly on equipment lectures. All guns have arrived

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

the fact that collection from Barletta is a four day job, we shall not have the complete issue of 25-prs before next week.

(d) In spite of the keen-ness of officers and other ranks, training is going too slowly, and there are too many subjects in which no progress at all has been made. We are not as far advanced as I hoped we should be by the third week of October. The training equipment at our disposal has been insufficient. -

6673

2 Drivers. Very little progress. No training scale of Field Artillery tractors has yet been made available, and the drivers have not yet seen these machines. An urgent request for these tractors was made to D M T on 29 Sep.

3 Specialists

They are doing as much as the limited equipment allows. Eight or ten NCOs round one artillery board can not progress as fast as they need to do. The scarcity of directors and absence of stands is a serious handicap.

4 Signallers.

Signal training courses have started this week. Only sufficient equipment for the courses has been issued so far. 22 sets and batteries are not available. I expect it will be at least another fortnight before we have any signallers available to commence field exercises.

5 Anti-aircraft battery

Concentrated mainly on equipment lectures. All guns have arrived today, and stores are being sorted out.

6 Anti-tank battery

Gun drill, laying and engagement of targets have been practised. Sub-calibre shooting started today. I hope the battery will have the telescopes and tools they need within 48 hours.

7 Officers. Show a marked improvement in knowledge of gun drill, laying, and equipment. Good progress is being made with artillery board work.

8 Stores. I have made a futher request for the loan of a BQMS to help in the sorting and distribution of stores.

RD

/To Sheet 2 .....

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

II 999

9 **Publications**

We need 25-pr Part I range tables, Part II range tables, and 25-pr Handbooks ; these are not available at Publications Depot.

Translationsinto Italian of a number of British pamphlets have not yet arrived.

I have asked O C R A Training Team (Italian Forces) to try to get these publications for us.

RD

Field
29 Oct 44
JRS/RGT

Major R A
51 British Liaison Unit

Distribution :- G S O 1
A/Q
O C RA Training Team (Italian Forces)
File
Spare

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

126

SECRET

SUBJECT : Progress Report. 8/Sec 3/Ko 50 Brit Liaison Unit

A/1/26

29 Oct 44.

HQ, MMIA

Ref your S/G/29/24 dated 28 Sep 44 para (e). 3a/52.

Herewith progress report for week ending 29 Oct 44.

1. See my A/1/26 dated 23 Oct.

Fifty trained drivers have arrived.

Twenty one driver instructors are expected.

Situation discussed in detail with Gen BROWNING 28 Oct. ✓

2. (a) During the week ending 29 Oct trg was badly interfered with by preparation for visit of Prince UMBERTO.

(b) Inf coy attack and defence were carried out. Refusal to allow responsibility to subordinates or to accept responsibility by subordinates remains a serious basic weakness.

(c) Arty - 17 pr — Excellent
40 mm — Good
25 pr — BAD, largely due to an extraordinarily low standard among offrs, in every respect.

(d) Sigs - Progress good.

(e) Engineers - Theoretical and individual trg satisfactory. Tactical and practical application weak.

(f) Tradesmen - Progress made, but cannot hope to make up deficiencies within any measurable time.

3.) No substantial changes and NTR since my A/1/26 dated 23 Oct.
4.)

6672

A.R. Gauntley

Lt col

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Twenty one driver instructors are being posted.

Situation discussed in detail with Gen BROWNING 28 Oct.

2. (a) During the week ending 29 Oct trg was badly interfered with by preparation for visit of Prince UMBERTO.

(b) Inf coy attack and defence were carried out. Refusal to allow responsibility to subordinates or to accept responsibility by subordinates remains a serious basic weakness.

(c) Arty - 17 pr — Excellent
40 mm — Good
25 pr — BAD, largely due to an extraordinarily low standard among offrs, in every respect.

(d) Sigs - Progress good.

(e) Engineers - Theoretical and individual trg satisfactory. Tactical and practical application weak.

(f) Tradesmen - Progress made, but cannot hope to make up deficiencies within any measurable time.

3.) No substantial changes and MTR since my A/1/26 dated 23 Oct.
4.)

6672

A.F.C. Loutit Cy

Lt col
GS

CMF
AECS/SYB

WP

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Weekly Report

SECRET

125

51 British Liaison Unit

G 6

M.M.I.A. Sec
FILE REF 109/32
Date Recd 29/10

To :- HQ M.M.I.A.

Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44, herewith my fourth weekly report.

1. STRENGTH

I submit a memorandum on the strength situation as Appendix I to this report.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry

The last week of Weapon Trg has been completed and Individual Trg has commenced. The main point in the Infantry Trg has been the marked improvement in the work of the 22nd Regt. I refer to this in the "General" para below.

All available men have fired their Platoon weapons. Those absent on leave or sick will be given special instruction in the Recruits Cadre on their return. The following are the numbers of men who have fired their weapons:-

Rifle	1967 (two practices)
T.S.M.G.	840 (two Practices)
Bren	906
P.I.A.T.	296
2" Mortar	651
36 Grenade	1000
3" Mortar	106

The 6 Pdr A/Tk gun has not been fired owing to lack of ammunition. No firing at ranges longer than 100 yds or so has been possible owing to the nature of the area and lack of range facilities. A 3" Mortar and Carrier Camp, directed by one of the Trg Majors has been established in the FRICENTO area.

The average standard with weapons is good both in handling and firing. The Rifle lags behind the other weapons presumably because the troops were thoroughly used to the Italian weapon.

It is a matter of interest that Range Discipline is of a noticeably high standard and in my opinion equal to that of a good Regular Bn before the war in the British Army.

(ii) Arty

6671

I submit a report on the Trg progress of the 7th Arty Regt [illegible] S.O.R.A. as Appendix II to this report. It is - you will observe - satisfactory.

(iii) Engineers

Two Pls have completed Trg in both Bailey Bridging and Mine Warfare. Work on explosives is still pending. The Engineers strike me as having [illegible] and settled down to work. They will be good

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

on leave or sick will be given special instruction in the Recruits Centre on their return. The following are the numbers of men who have fired their weapons:-

Rifle	1967	(two practices)
T.S.M.G.	640	(two Practices)
Bren	906	
P.I.A.T.	296	
2" Mortar	651	
36 Grenade	1000	
3" Mortar	106	

The 6 Pdr A/Tk gun has not been fired owing to lack of ammunition. No firing at ranges longer than 100 yds or so has been possible owing to the nature of the area and lack of range facilities. A 3" Mortar and Carrier Camp, directed by one of the Trg Majors has been established in the FRICENTO area.

The average standard with weapons is good both in handling and firing. The Rifle lags behind the other weapons presumably because the troops were thoroughly used to the Italian weapon.

It is a matter of interest that Range Discipline is of a noticeably high standard and in my opinion equal to that of a good Regular Bn before the war in the British Army.

(ii) Arty

I submit a report on the Trg progress of the 7th Arty Regt 66 Fd S.O.R.A. as Appendix II to this report. It is - you will observe - satisfactory.

(iii) Engineers

Two Pls have completed Trg in both Bailey Bridging and Mine Warfare. Work on explosives is still pending. The Engineers strike me as having assimilated their new comrades and settled down to work. They will be good engineers.

(iv) Signals

Sigs Trg of the Infantry is going ahead. Nos trained is as follows :-

21 Regt	32 Operators	12 Telephonists
22 Regt	28 "	8 "

First course with the Arty is still proceeding. The 22 sets were only received on the morning of the 25th.

10 Electricians trained in use of British charging eqpt.
60 Marconisti are undergoing second week of trg.
45 Linesmen and telephonists have completed first weeks trg

(v) Mechanical Engineers

A new office known as "UFFICIALE TECNICO AUTOMOBILISTICO" has opened at Gruppo HQ staffed by a former Carristi officer pending the arrival of a Major RONCO who is to be what corresponds to our CREME. My S.C. R.E.M.E. is fathering the infant office and explaining its duties.

cont Sheet 2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

11 more Veh Mechs have passed out from 65 HAA Wksp after a nine day course. All were extremely willing and capable. Two more Armourers have passed their course. Their standard was NOT so high as the former course.

3. RE - EQUIPPING

The situation as regards vehs and controlled stores are contained in a memorandum att as Appendix III to this report. My S.O. R. Sigs has rendered a separate report through his Sigs channels on the two 9 sets issued as C 1098 for the D.L.U. It seems extraordinary that while the Gruppo is issued with quantities of brand new equipment the few articles of our meagre C 1098 shouldbe part worn and almost unusable.

Battle Dress to scale has been issued throughout the Gruppo. It is NOT being worn however and the Italian uniforms are being worn as a fatigue dress and will be until the Gruppo leaves for the front. 300 vehs odd are being collected this week, including carriers of which we are badly in need.

4. MORALE

Morale continues high. The troops are very appreciative of British clothing, arms and equipment. The standard of saluting is high and I see a very reasonable camaraddi between officers and men when I go round units.

5. GENERAL

I spoke to the General on the subject of the difference between the 21st and 22nd Regts. He agreed with me but thought it might be due to the fact that Col. SILVESTRI was new to the Gruppo. An instant reaction to this talk has been very noticeable. Col. SILVESTRI has been galvanised into almost hysterical activity and I am glad to report that a marked improvement in the work and atmosphere of the 22nd Regt has resulted.

A complaint has been raised to the effect that a number of the vehs issued cannot be maintained to the system we are teaching owing to the lack of tools. Many vehs drawn have also been deficient of lamps and bulbs. We are endeavouring to rectify these deficiencies.

The standard of driving and general maintenance has improved again to a marked degree. No vehs were wrecked this week and only two minor accidents were reported. The CC.RR are almost embarrassingly active with road blocks and patrols.

There was a brush in ALTAVILLA on the evening of 25 Oct between three British deserters and our CC.RR who - assisted by a Sgt of the S.I.B. imported here for the purpose, and a Det of C.M.P. from BENEVENTO - were about to arrest them. The deserters opened fire. Two were caught and handed over to the C.M.P. These deserters had previously stolen a P.U. belonging to the Gruppo - since recovered. It is incidents of this nature which prompts me to ask for ALTAVILLA to be put out of bounds to Allied Troops.

6670

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

5. GENERAL

I spoke to the General on the subject of the difference between the 21st and 22nd Regts. He agreed with me but thought it might be due to the fact that Col. SILVESTRI was new to the Gruppo. An instant reaction to this talk has been very noticeable. Col. SILVESTRI has been galvanised into almost hysterical activity and I am glad to report that a marked improvement in the work and atmosphere of the 22nd Regt has resulted.

A complaint has been raised to the effect that a number of the vehs issued cannot be maintained to the system we are teaching owing to the lack of tools. Many vehs drawn have also been deficient of lamps and bulbs. We are enseavouring to rectify these deficiencies.

The standard of driving and general maintenance has improved again to a marked degree. No vehs were wrecked this week and only two minor accidents were reported. The CO.RR are almost embarassingly active with road blocks and patrols.

There was a brush in ALTAVILLA on the evening of 23 Oct between three British deserters and our CO.RR who - assisted by a Sgt of the S.I.B. imported here for the purpose, and a Det of C.M.P. from BENEVENTO - were about to arrest them. The deserters opened fire. Two were caught and handed over to the C.M.P. These deserters had previously stolen a P.U. belonging to the Gruppo - since recovered. It is incidents of this nature which prompts me to ask for ALTAVILLA to be put out of bounds to Allied Troops.

6670

BW. Wellington

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

Field
27 Oct 44
BWWC/WWH

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Weekly Progress Report

APPX 1

STRENGTHS

1 The posted strength of the Gruppo shews a further increase of 400 ORs over the period under review.

2 Again this is due to the influx of reinforcements which it is understood has now been stemmed.

3 The next few weeks should see a gradual reduction in the strength figures as the process of unloading surplus personnel on to other Gruppi who are still under strength, gains momentum.

4 A detailed strength state which is attached as an Annexure to this memorandum calls for the following comment

(a) The number of personnel on leave appears excessive - but is accounted for by the desire of the General to complete all leave rosters as quickly as possible

(b) If the numbers absent with leave are excessive, those absent without are exorbitant, but it is desired to emphasise the fact that many of these are men who have not yet returned from authorised leave and are no doubt delayed due to lack of travelling facilities.
In this connexion we are assured that the number of men deliberately absenting themselves continues at a low level.

6669

SPECIALISTS

5 The specialist situation is extremely satisfactory as a glance at Annex B to this memorandum will show. It should however be noted, that in the case of drivers many of those classified as such have still to gain experience on British vehicles.

R Lodsdatch

Major
DAA & QMG

Field
26 Oct
RSH/RGT

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785030

APPENDIX II

Subject :- Progress Reports - 7 Arty Regt - No. 3

To :-
G S O 1
51 British Liaison Unit

---

1 25-pr batteries. Basic instruction in laying and equipment lectures are proceeding satisfactorily. The regt now has 11 25-prs, and I expect the other 21 guns in 5 days time. Auxiliary stores, such as pumps, oil cans, and tools should be ready by then.

Departures on leave and men returning from leave have delayed training a little, as the same ground has to be covered several times.

I have had little opportunity of judging the gun fitters, but they seem capable. They stripped down the buffer and recuperator of one of the training guns, using some Italian tools.

2 Specialists. Training continues satisfactorily. With the arrival of more equipment more practical work will be possible.

3 Signallers. The special course for battery signalling instructors will end this week. Next week they will start to pass on all they have learned to the battery signallers. The equipment available at present is just sufficient to enable us to push on with individual training classes. Further equipment is due this week.

6668

4 Drivers. The situation is unsatisfactory. The few vehicles we have are always on duty, and are not available for instruction, although a great deal of instruction is needed. The Regimental Commander considers M T training is the weakest side of his regiment, and is anxious to raise the standard. The drivers have not yet seen a field artillery tractor, which is a most difficult machine to learn to drive and maintain. Even the present release which will be drawn within 5 days, allows us only 5 tractors. That means that little tractor driving and winching is likely to be practiced within the next fortnight. In the same period, the practicing of deployment and coming into action will depend on the availability of 3-tonners for towing the guns.

5 Anti-tank battery. All guns have arrived. Training is making excellent progress. Sub-calibre shooting is producing good results. Tractors are due in 5 days time. The battery commander is very energetic developing training methods.

6 Anti-aircraft battery. All guns have arrived, together with a certain number of tools. Training has been reorganised, and additional instructors brought in, so I am expecting the battery to make considerable progress this coming week.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

seem capable. They stripped down the barrel and recuperator of one of the training guns, using some Italian tools.

2 Specialists. Training continues satisfactorily. With the arrival of more equipment more practical work will be possible.

3 Signallers. The special course for battery signalling instructors will end this week. Next week they will start to pass on all they have learned to the battery signallers. The equipment available at present is just sufficient to enable us to push on with individual training classes. Further equipment is due this week.

6668

4 Drivers. The situation is unsatisfactory. The few vehicles we have are always on duty, and are not available for instruction, although a great deal of instruction is needed. The Regimental Commander considers M T training is the weakest side of his regiment, and is anxious to raise the standard. The drivers have not yet seen a field artillery tractor, which is a most difficult machine to learn to drive and maintain. Even the present release which will be drawn within 5 days, allows us only 5 tractors. That means that little tractor driving and winching is likely to be practiced within the next fortnight. In the same period, the practicing of deployment and coming into action will depend on the availability of 3-tonners for towing the guns.

5 Anti-tank battery. All guns have arrived. Training is making excellent progress. Sub-calibre shooting is producing good results. Tractors are due in 5 days time. The battery commander is very energetic developing training methods.

6 Anti-aircraft battery. All guns have arrived, together with a certain number of tools. Training has been reorganised, and additional instructors brought in, so I am expecting the battery to make considerable progress this coming week.

7 General.

Gun cleaning and pride in the equipment has been slow in starting, but is developing now. The anti-tank battery is setting a good example in this.

Major R A
51 British Liaison Unit

Field
26 Oct 44
JRB/ROT

Distribution :- G S O 1
A/Q
OC 2A Trg Team (Italian Forces)
File
Spare

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

29/32
124

COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE.

Progress report for week ending 18.00 hrs, Saturday 21 Oct.44.

Appx 'F' to 53 B.L.U.
letter ref. A 2 - 8
of 22 Oct. 44.

1. ORGANISATION.

(a) DEFICIENCIES IN OFFICERS ON W.E. OF B.L.U.

G.S.O. II and Captain R.E.M.E. are still outstanding. Both are urgently required - the former is required as there is no training increment available or likely to be available from D.M.T. and the latter owing to the extremely low standard of vehicle management in the division.

(b) DEFICIENCIES IN O.R.'S. ON W.E. OF B.L.U.

2 clerks R.A.S.C. and all R.C.O.S. personnel - the signals personnel are urgently required as Signals Equipment is being drawn this week. A.F.H.Q. have promised to release nine of our signals increment this week.

2. TRAINING.

Several units have been visited during the past week but little training is going on due chiefly to lack of training stores, shortage of petrol and above all to the disgraceful state of clothing and boots in the division.

Units are, however, preparing training programmes and work is going on with the construction of ranges - training areas are satisfactory and ranges are available near unit locations.

3. RE-EQUIPPING.

(a) Vehicles.: 10 training vehicles (Release Note D.O.S./257 dated 10.10.44) are being collected.

51 B.L.U. has been ordered to hand over certain training vehicles by D.M.T. - numbers available are not firm yet and it is expected that only a few will be forthcoming.

Lack of training vehicles will be an obstacle to training in the very near future.

(b) Equipment : The supply of training stores other than vehicles are likely to be more satisfactory - rifles 4500, T.M.G.s 2500, L.M.G.s 60 - artillery gun parts are expected in the next few days.

6667

(c) Clothing. : Clothing of all kinds is most urgently needed and there is a very urgent demand for :-

Boots	3000
Socks	18000

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

promised to release nine of our [illegible]

2. TRAINING.

Several units have been visited during the past week but little training is going on due chiefly to lack of training stores, shortage of petrol and above all to the disgraceful state of clothing and boots in the division.

Units are, however, preparing training programmes and work is going on with the construction of ranges - training areas are satisfactory and ranges are available near unit locations.

3. RE-EQUIPPING.

(a) Vehicles.: 10 training vehicles (Release Note D.O.S./257 dated 10.10.44) are being collected.

51 B.L.U. has been ordered to hand over certain training vehicles by D.M.T. - numbers available are not firm yet and it is expected that only a few will be forthcoming.

Lack of training vehicles will be an obstacle to training in the very near future.

(b) Equipment : The supply of training stores other than vehicles are likely to be more satisfactory - rifles 4500, T.M.G.s 2500, L.M.G.s 60 - artillery gun parts are expected in the next few days.

6667

(c) Clothing. : Clothing of all kinds is most urgently needed and there is a very urgent demand for :-

Boots	3000
Socks	18000
Pullovers	9000
Blankets	14000

D.D.O.S. 3 District has not yet received authority from Q(A.E.) to release any clothing and the matter is still under discussion.

700 blankets have been obtained and issued.

(d) Signal Equipment : G 1098 Signal Stores are to be drawn early this week. Issues to units will be restricted by us until Italian Personnel are considered capable to handle it. R.C.O.S. personnel are therefore urgently required during this period.

(e) R.E. Stores : Mines for training are being drawn by S.O.R.E. from SIENNA. This will be at least a five days trip.

/(F)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. RE-EQUIPPING. (Cont).

(f) P.O.L.: Petrol, oil etc. for this division will be drawn from British sources from 1. 11. 44. - up to this date supplies for training and essential duties such as drawing equipment will very limited.

(g) Indents: The question of the submitting of indents for the G 1098 equipment of the division has been fully investigated by D.A.D.O.S. and it is considered that indents will be necessary - the matter is in hand and our R.A.O.C. personnel working with 51 B.L.U. are assisting them as well as preparing our own indents.

(h) R.A.O.C. Personnel : This B.L.U. will require 10 storemen when G 1098 stores are available for issue. It is suggested that the 10 storemen who are with 51 B.L.U. during their period of equipping should be attached to this B.L.U. on completion of 51 B.L.U.

It is also considered essential that B.O.W.Os should be made available to link up between D.A.D.O.S. and Groups, i.e.

Artillery 1, Regt. Groups 2, other arms 1. Total 4.

4. MORALE.

Morale is at present fairly good but clothing, boots and blankets must be issued very shortly if trouble is to be avoided.

Cl. V vehicles and worn out clothing are not morale raisers and every effort must be made to issue satisfactory stores if the Italian Divisions are to be a success. As units in this division have worked in the past under British Formations and received better rations, N.A.A.F.I. issues and clothing, they are not unnaturally dissatisfied with their present conditions.

The present ration scale is not very generous and it is very difficult to make satisfactory local food purchases.

G. H. Marks.

Lt. Col.

53 B.L.U. G.S. 6666

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject:- Progress Report.

SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

"A" Brit Liaison Unit
A/1/26
22 Oct 44

123

MMLA

Ref your S/G/29/24 dated 28 Sep 44.

Herewith Progress Report for week-ending 22 Oct.

1. (a) Official amendments to WE of BLU and many units of Gp discussed with you on 5 Oct are still awaited.

(b) No Brit Driver Instructors have in fact been made available in spite of repeated requests and protests.
None of the 300 trained Italian drivers promised from an Italian GT Coy have in fact arrived.
The situation remains deplorable.

2. (a) Training of the Gp has proceeded, but promise has outrun practice and much of the intended programme for w/e 29 Oct has had to be postponed in favour of revision of basic subjects insufficiently mastered in earlier stages.

(b) Inf Training up to Pl in attack, defence and as a fighting patrol. Defensive trg very shaky. Hampered by lack of tools.

(c) ARTY. All 25 pd tps have fired a first shoot on the open range. Grasp of principles and control by officers at all levels was in many cases disappointing.

(d) SIGS. Pls are sufficiently trained to go out to their respective regts.
On the Arty range W/T was on the whole good despite a tendency towards unnecessary repetition and verbosity.

(e) ENGINEERS. "Drills" for all subjects completed. Tactical application follows.

(f) TRADESMEN. Very keen to learn and good progress made.

3. (a) RE)EQUIPPING. Satisfactory. 2" Mortars, 3" Mortars and directors No 7 are outstanding deficiencies.

(b) Blankets urgently required to complete issue of two per man.

(c) Traffic accidents are decreasing.

4. (a) MORALE. Obedience to and particularly enforcement of orders show considerable improvement.

(b) Senior officers are still most reluctant to de-centralise and junior officers to exercise their own authority or initiative.

(c) The Gp Cond has expressed considerable misgivings about communist and suspected fascist elements in recent drafts.

6665

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

revision of basic subjects insufficiently mastered in earlier stages.

(b) Inf Training up to Pl in attack, defence and as a fighting patrol. Defensive trg very shaky. Hampered by lack of tools.

(c) ARTY. All 25 pd tps have fired a first shoot on the open range. Grasp of principles and control by officers at all levels was in many cases disappointing.

(d) SIGS. Pls are sufficiently trained to go out to their respective regts.
On the Arty range W/T was on the whole good despite a tendency towards unnecessary repetition and verbosity.

(e) ENGINEERS. "Drills" for all subjects completed. Tactical application follows.

(f) TRADESMEN. Very keen to learn and good progress made.

3. (a) RE)EQUIPPING. Satisfactory. 2" Mortars, 3" Mortars and directors No 7 are outstanding deficiencies.

(b) Blankets urgently required to complete issue of two per man.

(c) Traffic accidents are decreasing.

4. (a) MORALE. Obedience to and particularly enforcement of orders show considerable improvement.

(b) Senior officers are still most reluctant to de-centralise and junior officers to exercise their own authority or initiative.

(c) The Gp Comd has expressed considerable misgivings about communist and suspected fascist elements in recent drafts.

6665

CMF.

A.D.C. Gouthro
Lt Col.
GS.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET

50 (Scottish Liaison Unit. 122

Ref. A/1/26.

16 Oct. 44.

Subject : Mob. Progress Report.

M.I.A.

Ref your letter S/G/29/21 dated 28 Sept. 44.
Progress report for week ending 15 Oct. 44.

(1) (a) Rulings on points discussed with you on 5 Oct. are still awaited.
(b) Situation as regards Drivers Tracked and Wheeled, M.C. Orderlies, Armourers, Workshop and L.A.D. personnel etc. shows little or no improvement. It will be impossible to train sufficient Drivers Tracked by the end of October. It is unlikely that sufficient Drivers Wheeled can be trained by that date either.

X (c) No news of arrival of R.A.S.C. driver instructors has yet been received although the question was discussed on 5 Oct. and it was then understood that Lt. Col. PERCEVAL was to take action. It is pointed out that D.M.T. expected R.A.S.C. driving instructors to have been available and working with Regts from the beginning of September.

(2) (a) Training has proceeded satisfactorily in spite of bad weather.
(b) Inf. have completed Sec. training.
(c) Arty have reached a good standard of Gun Drill. Training of Officers has been delayed by lack of willingness to work on British methods as taught to Italian instructors at the R.A. School.
(d) Signals. Sigs. Coy. 50% Trained.
Arty. 50% "
Inf. 70% "
(e) Engineers. Progress in all branches.
(f) Tradesmen. Progress held up by lack of tools and equipment.

(3) Re - equipping. Excellent progress. Outstanding deficiencies 2" and 3" Mortars, Directors No. 7, Compasses Prismatic, and certain specialist vehicles.

(4.) Clothing, boots, one blanket per man, and a certain amount of tentage, have been received and issued. As far as it goes, morale should thereby be improved.

Discipline as regards obedience to and enforcement of orders, particularly traffic discipline, shows no improvement.

6664

Lt. Col.
C.S.

C.M.F.
ARCS/IGB.

X Seen by SAT.
Understood this was matter for DMT to arrange
Will take up at AFHQ on 20/10.
19/10

SECRET

Subject :- Weekly Reports

121

51 British Liaison Unit

N.B. Appx A & B also. Letter heads a remarks G 7 Diary is in part No.

S/Sec 29 - 32. 19/10

To :- MLLA
CMF

Ref your S/G/23/24 of 28 Sep, herewith my second weekly report.

1. STRENGTH

The question of strength is now tied up with the question of whether the Gruppo is to hold its ten per cent reserve or not. I have asked for guidance on this question. My G 15 dated 11 Oct refers

Should the Gruppo be in order in holding their 10% reserve the total figures of strength of the Gruppo are only 100 men over strength. The unit strengths however show a wide diversity. The Genio Bn have a surplus of some 100%. I presume it is intended to bring up to strength with the surplus men the deficiencies in the Tpt Coy., Mech Coy., and the Medicals. Both Inf Regts are over strength. I submit todays figures as Appendix A to this report.

The actual Ration Strength of the Gruppo is however 397 officers and 7508 men and is lower than the W.E. This must be so owing to some 350 men in hospital and about 1000 on leave.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry.

Individual trg continues in both Regts and the officers classes are now in their first week. With the completion of trg stores work has been going better. I am satisfied with the keenness displayed and the progress made.

(ii) Arty.

I att at Appendix B to this report the report made by my S.O. R.A. I visited the Arty Regt this week and was impressed by what I saw.

6663

(iii) Engineers.

Sufficient of the Bailey Bridging was collected this week to enable trg. I have watched this. The men are keen but inclined to muddle the procedure and get in each others way. This will doubtless improve. The remainder of the equipment is being colledted now and full trg starts on 16 Oct. Mines and explosives are now available and trg in theseals commences on Oct 16.

(iv) Signals.

Trg classes for all personnel who have already attended the NCLA course started on Oct 11. It will last 4 days . Strength of course 22. Inf Regts and Arty trg starts on Oct 16, 50 per Inf and Arty Regt.

All controlled Sigs equipment will be here by Oct 13. No non-controlled stores have yet arrived.

(v) Mechanical Engineers.

[illegible] since my last report. We has

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

over strength of supply [illegible]

The actual Ration Strength of the Gruppo is however 397 officers and 7508 men and is lower than the W.E. This must be so owing to some 350 men in hospital and about 1000 on leave.

2. TRAINING

(i) Infantry.

Individual trg continues in both Regts and the officers classes are now in their first week. With the completion of trg stores work has been going better. I am satisfied with the keenness displayed and the progress made.

(ii) Arty.

I att at Appendix B to this report the report made by my S.O. R.A. I visited the Arty Regt this week and was impressed by what I saw.

(iii) Engineers.

Sufficient of the Bailey Bridging was collected this week to [illegible]ce trg. I have watched this. The men are keen but inclined to muddle the procedure and get in each others way. This will doubtless improve. The remainder of the equipment is being colledted now and full trg starts on 16 Oct. Mines and explosives are now available and trg in theseclas commences on Oct 16.

(iv) Signals.

Trg classes for all personnel who have already attended the NCOs course started on Oct 11. It will last 4 days . Strength of course 22. Inf Regts and Arty trg starts on Oct 16, 30 per Inf and Arty Regt.

All controlled Sigs equipment will be here by Oct 15. No non-controlled stores have yet arrived.

(v) Mechanical Engineers.

Staff Capt R.E.M.E. has arrived since my last report. He has conferred with the Wksps officer of the Gruppo and reports that the organisation, lay out etc., of the Wksp and L. A.Ds are well understood.

Two Armourers and 12 veh Mechs are attending a course being run by 65 Hvy A A Wksp. These numbers are ridiculously inadequate but are a start and I should like here to register my appreciation of the co-operation of this Wksp which is performing duties far removed to its normal function quite voluntarily.

No equipment or vehs have yet been received by the Mech Engrs or L.A.Ds.

(vi) Transport.

Two transport Pls are now complete with Dodge 3 Ton vehs. ADs 412, 406, and AFA 3684 issued for all vehs of S & T Coy.

An initial M.T. Continuation Trg Programme has been produced by DADST and trg has now commenced.

A course for the specialist personnel of the Composite Pl starts at 60 DID on Oct 17.

3. RE - EQUIPPING

85 Maintainence Vehs which will count against G 1098 have been collected. A further 30 are being collected today. All clothing and controlled stores are released and in course of collection. Indents for uncontrolled stores are almost complete. 2000 part worn boots have been collected and issued.

cont Sheet 2

6663

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1354

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

4. MORALE

Morale is good. I find the new elements in the Genio Bn - a certain number of whom are recruited from civil sources - are not enthusiastic at the idea of action. This may well pass off as these recruits are assimilated into the Gruppo.

There is a marked difference in the atmosphere of the 21 and 22 Regts of Inf. The former has an outstanding Comd in the person of Col. MUSSO. The latter - although men and officers show enthusiasm and energy - has not the drive and efficiency of 21 Regt. I have NOT yet achieved meeting Col. SILVESTRI the Comd who always seems to be in MILAN or RAVELLO when I go round.

The arrival of equipment has cheered the Gruppo considerably.

5. GENERAL

I am worried about the standard of veh driving in the Gruppo. I repeatedly draw the attention of the Staff to this matter and have personally reported a number of cases of bad driving and bad road discipline. I have interviewed - in the presence of the Chief of Staff, the officer i/c C.C.R.R. This seems to have little effect.

The standard of driving is NOT so bad as some owing to the fact that this Gruppo secured a number of men from the Carrieti Bn in Sardinia, but it is still - to our standards - appalling. One brand new Ambulance, drawn the day before, was completely written off yesterday by sheer bad driving.

W. Mellanby

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

12 Field
Oct 44.
BMC/WH

Subject :- Progress Reports - No. 1

To :-
G S O 1
"B" British Liaison Unit

A
(1) Gunners. Due to absence of sights gun drill up to 9 October was limited to bringing guns into and out of action. Since that date standing gun drill and laying, and recording of zero lines have been practiced. Equipment lectures have been given ; there is need for gun handbooks which contain excellent illustrations of buffer and recuperator, etc. These have been demanded from Publications Dept.

The task system of maintenance has been explained. The guns need practical maintenance which cannot begin until gun stores, tools, pumps and oil injectors arrive.

(2) Specialists. Equipment available has been 3 directors less stands. W.e.f 9 Oct 5 Artillery boards have been available - borrowed from Friuli Division. Training has consisted almost entirely of lectures on the British Grid System, lines of fire, laying, deployment, link shooting concentrations. Practical work will be on a restricted scale until further artillery boards and covers arrive. Covers have been demanded from Stationery Dept.

(3) Signallers. No equipment has been available ; it is arriving this week, and full scale signal training on the British equipment will commence on Oct 16.

Training has consisted of lectures on equipment using blackboard illustrations, and on general theory and wireless procedure.

B Anti-tank battery.

Gun drill and fire orders are proceeding well. Lack of telescopes is a handicap. Equipment lectures have been given. Practical maintenance on the guns will be insisted on as soon as gun stores are available.

C Anti-aircraft battery.

No sights available. Gun drill has therefore been mainly restricted to bringing guns into and out of action. Much practice at this is still required.

Equipment explanations and maintenance have been handicapped by absence of tools.

D Drivers.

Little practical instruction has so far been possible owing to

6661

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(2) Specialists. Equipment available has been 3 directors less stands. W.e.f 9 Oct 5 Artillery boards have been available - borrowed from Friuli Division. Training has consisted almost entirely of lectures on the British Grid System, lines of fire, laying, deployment, link shooting concentrations. Practical work will be on a restricted scale until further artillery boards and covers arrive. Covers have been demanded from Stationery Dept.

(3) Signallers. No equipment has been available ; it is arriving this week, and full scale signal training on the British equipment will commence on Oct 16.

Training has consisted of lectures on equipment using blackboard illustrations, and on general theory and wireless procedure.

B Anti-tank battery.

Gun drill and fire orders are proceeding well. Lack of telescopes is a handicap. Equipment lectures have been given. Practical maintenance on the guns will be insisted on as soon as gun stores are available.

C Anti-aircraft battery.

No sights available. Gun drill has therefore been mainly restricted to bringing guns into and out of action. Much practice at this is still required.

Equipment explanations and maintenance have been handicapped by absence of tools.

D Drivers.

Little practical instruction has so far been possible owing to absence of vehicles for demonstration.

Greatest emphasis has been laid on the task system of maintenance.

Small arms training - rifle, bren, tommy gun - has been carried out by a cadre class which was itself instructed by an infantry officer.

E Officers.

Have attended lectures on equipment and gunnery.

Senior officers have attended lecture on deployment.

F General.

1 Small arms training has been predominant on account of absence of other equipment.

2 Stores officers have been instructed in method of recording receipt and distribution of stores.

3 Regtl survey party has commenced training with Italian equipment as it does not appear likely that Directors No. 7 will be available this month.

4 The next 14 days will be spent in drawing equipment, learning practical maintenance, practicing drill, practical artillery board work, and signalling classes. At the end of that time the Regt should be ready for firing on the ranges.

/To sheet 2/ F 5 .....

6661

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

F (cont) 5 On account of the insufficiency of transport for the BLU, the batteries and training classes have not been visited as regularly as they should have been. The Regtl Commander and Battery Commanders have expressed the wish that I should visit them more often. Too much time is wasted every day begging lifts, and waiting to fit in journeys with other staff officers' requirements. If any supervision is to be exercised over the 1500 officers and men of the Regt, divided as they are into numerous groups and classes, and spread over 10 miles of country, it is essential that I should have a car completely at my disposal.

12 Oct 44
JSS/RGT

Major R A
"B" British Liaison Unit

Distribution :- GSO 1
A/Q
OC RA Trg Team (Italian Forces)
File
Spare

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

confidential

120

Reports Sa

COPY

SUBJECT: Weekly Progress Report

TO : M.M.I.A.

31

Reference your MMIA S/G/29/24 dated 24/9/44 para 1(c) herewith is first report of this B.L.U.

1. STATE OF B.L.U.

(a) OFFICERS: On arrival on the evening of 7/10/44 O.C. B.L.U. found the following officers present in the location at TELESI

G.II Major Gibb
D4DS&T Major Brown
DADOS Major Tegetmeirr
SORE Capt Hougart

The remaining officers to complete establishment are urgently required.

(b) OTHER RANKS: No other ranks were present and as there were no facilities for cooking, accomodation stores, latrines etc available either for officers or Other Ranks, this was satisfactory except that the B.L.U. cannot at present carry out its duties without them.

On 8/10/44 I visited "A" B.L.U. and arranged for the other Ranks available (Admin. Sgt one - M.T. Cpl, one - Messing Orderly, one - RA.O.C. Clerks, two -) to report here today. So far they have not arrived. "B" B.L.U. was also visited and it was agreed to leave the R.A.O.C. personnal with them for the present.

(c) TRANSPORT: Transport available at the moment are two jeeps (one is CLV and unreliable) One Water Cart - one 3 ton lorry (CLV and most unreliable) and three Motor Cycles. It is hoped to collect two more 3 tonners, which are not expected to be any better than the one in possession, in the next day or so. Transport is obviously totally inadequate and will not allow the B.L.U. to carry out its duties.

6660

(d) COMMUNICATIONS: There are no Signal Communications except for a telephone to "C" B.L.U.. Roads are extremely bad and owing to blown bridges CASERTA is about 2½ hours away and BENEVENTO 1 hr. This coupled with lack of signals and transport makes the work of the B.L.U. very difficult and a whole day can be spent on

The remaining officers to complete establishment are urgently required.

(b) OTHER RANKS: No other ranks were present and as there were no facilities for cooking, accomodation stores, latrines etc available either for officers or Other Ranks, this was satisfactory except that the B.L.U. cannot at present carry out its duties without them.

On 8/10/44 I visited "A" B.L.U. and arranged for the other Ranks available (Admin. Sgt one - M.T. Cpl, one - Messing Orderly, one - RA.O.C. Clerks, two -) to report here today. So far they have not arrived. "B" B.L.U. was also visited and it was agreed to leave the R.A.O.C. personnel with them for the present.

(c) TRANSPORT: Transport available at the moment are two jeeps (one is CLV and unreliable) One Water Cart - one 3 ton lorry (CLV and most unreliable) and three Motor Cycles. It is hoped to collect two more 3 tonners, which are not expected to be any better than the one in possession, in the next day or so. Transport is obviously totally inadequate and will not allow the B.L.U. to carry out its duties.

6660

(d) COMMUNICATIONS: There are no Signal Communications except for a telephone to "C" B.L.U.. Roads are extremely bad and owing to blown bridges CASERTA is about 2½ hours away and BENEVENTO 1 hr. This coupled with lack of signals and transport makes the work of the B.L.U. very difficult and a whole day can be spent on a simple task that would normally only intail a telephone conversation.

(e) GENERAL: Much progress is being made with regards the Administrative arrangements of the B.L.U. and we can now take in our other ranks and officers when available, but it is pointed out very strongly that if the advice of D.M.T. (Para 5 of D.M.T. letter No. D.M.T./55/M.T.I dated 3/10/44) had been taken the formation of the B.L.U. would have been made much easier. It will still take some time for the B.L.U. to become fully operative even if deficiencies in personnel and transport are made good. It is obviously extremely bad for British prestige to allow B.L.U.s to form in such disadvantageous conditions in the midst of Italian Divisions.

(f) RETURNS: The daily returns asked for in MMIA letter No. S/C/29/24 dated 28/9/44 are not possible. This is due to the dispersal and lack of procedure in Italian Units and in addition to lack of Communications. The returns asked for would be difficult to

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

obtain from a British formation in more favourable circumstances but are quite impossible for this formation. It is suggested that a weekly return, which it is hoped can be made accurate, will be of more use.

2. FOLGORE DIVISION

(a) COMMUNICATIONS: The same difficulties confront the division as well as the B.L.U. however it is considered that a change of area is not desirable as it will delay training. Units are widely dispersed within the divisional area making better transport facilities essential. The division has only six jeeps so that supervision is not adequate.

(b) EQUIPMENT: Training and some C 1098 equipment is needed in a few days. This also applies to clothing and tentage.

It is considered a matter of primary importance both for the morale of the Italian Troops and British prestige that vague promises of return issues are avoided at all costs and that the true picture is given even if it is a gloomy one.

(c) MORALE: After very short experience the officers seem to be keen and very willing to help in every way and the men appear to be good material. If their morale is to be kept up, issues of equipment and clothing must be made at an early date.

(d) TRAINING: Preliminary training with what small amount of equipment is available will start next week.

11/10/44

/S/ ? . Lt. Col.
O.C. "D" B.L.U.

6659

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

clothing must be made at an early date.

(d) TRAINING: Preliminary training with what small amount of equipment is availeble will start next week.

/S/ ? , Lt. Col.
O.C. "D" S.L.U.

11/10/44

6659

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Cal Peabody & Brigadier 10 Cs 119
8/Secy 11/10
5/0/29/24/1 Lib
MAIN FILE Confirmed 11/10

CONFIDENTIAL
UK EYES

"A" Brit Liaison Unit

A/1/26

8 Oct 44

SUBJECT : Mob State - FRIULI Div

HQ 1MMIA

Ref S/G/29/24 dated 28 Sep 44 para (c).

The following progress report is forwarded as required.

(1) (a) All units are organised according to new est.

(b) Detailed difficulties in org of all arms, except arty, owing to discrepancies and omissions in WEs were recently discussed with you.

(c) Owing to initial lack of provision for trg of essential basic personnel such as dvrs tracked and wheeled, MC Orderlies, armourers, wksp and LAD personnel etc, state of readiness cannot be placed higher than 33⅓.

(d) This will very rapidly rectify itself provided (a) interpreters and (b) dvr instructors RASC for unit instruction can be made available forthwith.

(e) If future gps are to form smoothly and without many of the difficulties experienced in FRIULI gp it is considered essential that such personnel as are enumerated in (1)(c) above should be trained BEFORE re-equipping of the gp can begin.

(2) (a) With exceptions noted above trg is proceeding satisfactorily: sigs, spr, and arty trg are good. Supn Coy trg is progressing adequately. Wksp etc trg is now under control.

(b) Inf have completed preliminary weapons trg and are proceeding to tactical trg.

(c) Regt offrs, particularly coy and pl comds show an unexpected and most disconcertingly complete lack of any knowledge of minor tactics either Italian or Brit.

(d) It has therefore been found necessary to start on Brit lines from the very bottom: this at the particular and urgent request of Italian regt comds.

(e) It is nevertheless anticipated that trg within the terms of ref laid down by DMT will be completed by the target date.

6658

(f) Bad weather combined with contined failure to provide boots or clothing may however necessitate postponement.

...../(g)

4363

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(g) In the event of the formation of future gps with a similar lack of any active trg on modern lines or of battle experience, it is felt that very serious consideration should be given to sending at least all coy comds actually to undergo a junior leaders battle course at Brit or Brit assisted Italian schools.

(3) (a) Details of re-equipping are shown in Appx "B".

(b) Position as regards weapons is satisfactory with exception of 2" and 3" Mortars.

(c) Position as regards vehs is satisfactory as far as it can be in view of shortage and inadequacy of dvrs.

(d) On 7 Oct DAA&QMG and DADOS visited Q(AE) AFHQ at request of Q(AE). The situation in regard to Vote 8 stores is now considered to be in hand.

(e) No blankets or boots have been received. Provision of both is essential if the health of the tps is to be maintained.

(f) Trg of infantry cannot continue or be completed unless boots are available forthwith. Approx 300 men per inf bn are without boots of any sort and cannot possibly march or carry out tactical exercises.

(g) Hardly any of the new drafts were in possession of boots.

(h) Only 5000 pairs were allowed to be retained out of the 'original' 9000, and the situation is acute.

(j) Battle Dress so far issued will be seen to be useless (5000 LARGE trousers, only 400 blouses) again, trg in poor weather cannot continue unless this is rectified.

(4)(a) Morale is being seriously impaired by lack of blankets, boots and clothing.

(b) As instanced in continued failure to enforce RT discipline there is a grave lack of ability to ensure obedience to orders issued.

(c) This would apparently apply from the Div Comd downwards.

(d) There is a lamentable tendency to give out instructions, usually voluminously and on paper, and to leave the matter there without any attempt to see that such instructions are understood and followed.

(e) Junior ranks seem to give little individual obedience to orders.

(f) Comds on all levels are unwilling to de-centralise e.g. regt comd siting bn or even coy latrines etc.

(g) The converse of [illegible] above is that junior comds, both offrs and NCOs fail signally to accept responsibility or to 'take charge'

6657

1364

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

of any situation.

(h) There is a slight feeling abroad that Italy is down and out, that no-one wants to fight, and that all anyone wants is to get back to their families.

This feeling is possibly reflected in the enormous numbers struck off strength as deserters, having failed to return from leave.

(j) Recent drafts have contained a proportion of apparent communists. Close observation is being kept for repercussions.

(k) The hostile effect of the 4th being moved to the vicinity of the homes of those who have not yet had leave cannot be overestimated.

Accordingly

Lt col
GS

CAF

6656

Subject :- WEEKLY REPORT.

To ;- MMIA, Rome.

CONFIDENTIAL

"P" British Liaison Unit.

G 7

48/10

18

1. Ref your S/G/29/24 of 28 Sep 44 herewith my first weekly Report as requested. It will, no doubt, be appreciated that at this stage it is not possible to give a clear picture of the state of re-organisation within the Gruppo. There are still apprax 1000 men to be struck off strength. These are men of the 1913 - 1914 class who of course should never have been brought from SARDINIA. Parties of reinforcements are still arriving. As regards the different arms :-

Done

(i) Infantry This arm is over strength on paper. I understand however that the majority of the 1913 - 14 class are in the infantry.

(ii) Artillery The 7 Artillery Regt. is up to strength and is organised into its six batteries, It still requires numbers of certain specialists.

(iii) Engineers This Bn is under strength and is about halfway towards completion of re-organisationReinforcements are arriving from 10 Regt.genio at CAPUA. The Signal Coy is in a similar state.

(iv) Medical Slightly under strength. It is hoped to establish the two Fd. Hospitals next week.

(v) Services generally. O.F.P. is organised and complete.

I know. The whole course of re-organisation and training is being hampered by serious lack of transport. It takes days to collect training equipment and there seems no means of getting rid of surplus men. This latter point is, I believe, in hand now under MMIA arrangements. yes.

2. Training. In the Infantry Regts this started last week and went very well. I have only two trg-Majors but both are first class. The two Regts could not have shown more keeness and a greater anxiety to overcome obstacles. Col. Rea went round the Regts at the end of the week and expressed his satisfaction at the progress made and the obviously better atmosphere than that in FRIULI Div.

Training is at this stage confined to NCO potential instructors and to officers but next week the instructors are being enlarged on their squads.. The officers will continue their course next week.

Artillery. My SO RA is impressed by the keeness displayed. Trg has neccessarily been confined to trg in personal weapons and a certain amount of theoretical gunnery. No directors have yet been issued and there are no sights for the 18 guns issued for Trg. D M T has been approached repeatedly apropos these deficiencies which are - of course - holding up all useful technical trg.

6655

Engineers. Although Bailey Bridging has been available for drawing for three weeks now we have been quite unable to draw more than 12 loads of it owing to the shortage of tpt. and the urgent calls for the drawing of other trg. stores and the normal maintenance of the Div. Trg in personal weapons has proceeded. OK.

Signals. No equipment has as yet been issued. Classes are working at theoretical wireless,etc. This is of

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(iv) Medical Slightly under strength. It is hoped to establish the two Fd. Hospitals next week.

(v) Services generally. O.F.P. is organised and complete.

I know. The whole course of re-organisation and training is being hampered by serious lack of transport. It takes days to collect training equipment and there seems no means of getting rid of surplus men. This latter point is, I believe, in yes. hand now under MMIA arrangements.

2. Training. In the Infantry Regts this started last week and went very well. I have only two trg-Majors but both are first class. The two Regts could not have shown more keeness and a greater anxiety to overcome obstacles. Col. Rea went round the Regts at the end of the week and expressed his satisfaction at the progress made and the obviously better atmosphere than that in FRIULI Div.

Training is at this stage confined to NCO potential instructors and to officers but next week the instructors are being enlarged on their squads.. The officers will continue their course next week.

6655

Artillery. My SO RA is impressed by the keeness displayed. Trg has neccessarily been confined to trg in personal weapons and a certain amount of theoretical gunnery. Action delay note. No directors have yet been issued and there are no sights for the 18 guns issued for Trg. D M T has been approached repeatedly apropos these deficiencies which are - of course - holding up all useful technical trg.

Engineers. Although Bailey Bridging has been available for drawing for three weeks OK now we have been quite unable to draw more than 12 loads of it owing to the shortage of tpt. and the urgent calls for the drawing of other trg. stores and the normal maintenance of the Div. Trg in personal weapons has proceeded.

Signals. No equipment has as yet been issued, Classes are working at theoretical wireless,etc. This is, of course, highly unsatisfactory. Two sets have now been ✓ borrowed from FRIULI and issued to the Artillery whose need appears to me to be the most urgent.

Medical. It is noted that a Hygiene Course has been requested by MMIA. I need ✓ hardly stress the urgent need of this. With no British Medical authority available I am unable to hazard any opinion on the state of the medical services of the Gruppo.

Services. Personnel of the O F P have completed their course and are now employed on Ordnance work. Amm storemen are now being trained at RAOC Trg Est. One platoon of the Supply Coy has been formed. The shortage of tpt. is of course felt by this Coy to a high degree.

3. Re-equipping has not commenced as yet. It is stated to be commencing on 7 Oct but no preliminary symptoms are as yet visible.

4. Morale generally. I am convinced that the CREMONA Division is a good one by Italian standards. The men appear to be tough and fit. The officers are keen. The Div Comd. has a very definite personality and is in my opinion on top of his job. Of the senior officers I consider Col. MUSCO the cmdr. of the 21st Regt. an outstanding officer. I understand a new cmdr. is expected for the 22nd Regt. Col. OTTONE of the Artillery is a passionately enthusiastic gunner and ix will be satisfactory.

To sheet 2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Sheet 2.

The morale of the Division appears high and in the unit turnout, saluting etc is of a satisfactory standard. The camps are beautifully clean and cookhouses etc seem well laid out. All are marred by an utter lack of hygiene. Little heaps of excreta surround each camp. I have spoken with vigour on this subject to all concerned.

The Administration side of the picture is deplorable. I am NOT impressed by Col. GAUDIOSO the Chief of Staff but I understand he is to be relieved. Almost insurmountable difficulties are met with in entracting such routine information as strength returns. The A & Q side of the staff which is muddled hopelessly with G seems to concentrate on the person of one Captain who is quite unable to cope, although he is an able officer.

Taken up with SHAEF

B.W. Wellesley

Lieut Col.,
General Staff,
O i/c "B" British Liaison Unit.

4th Oct 44
BMMC/FEL.

6654

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET

SUBJECT Weekly Returns - Equipment & Personnel "A" Brit Liaison Unit

815ec 29/40 A/1/26

Dely Rec 6/10 3 Oct 44

HQ, FAFA

1. At appx "A" and "B" to this letter will be found the weekly returns called for in para 1(b) and 2(b) respectively of your letter S/C/29/2, dated 26 Sep 44.

2. With ref to the return of equipment required, it is impossible at the moment to give accurately the holdings by units. It can be said however that in the case of the personal weapons, each unit has its entitlement according to WE. This return is complete up to 1800hrs 2 Oct.

CKF
PGRV/SYB

Maj PPR
DAA&Q.G

Maj Head Lose 6/10.

File 29/15 WP

6/10

File in Private File 6653

I 3 6 9